UNIT 451

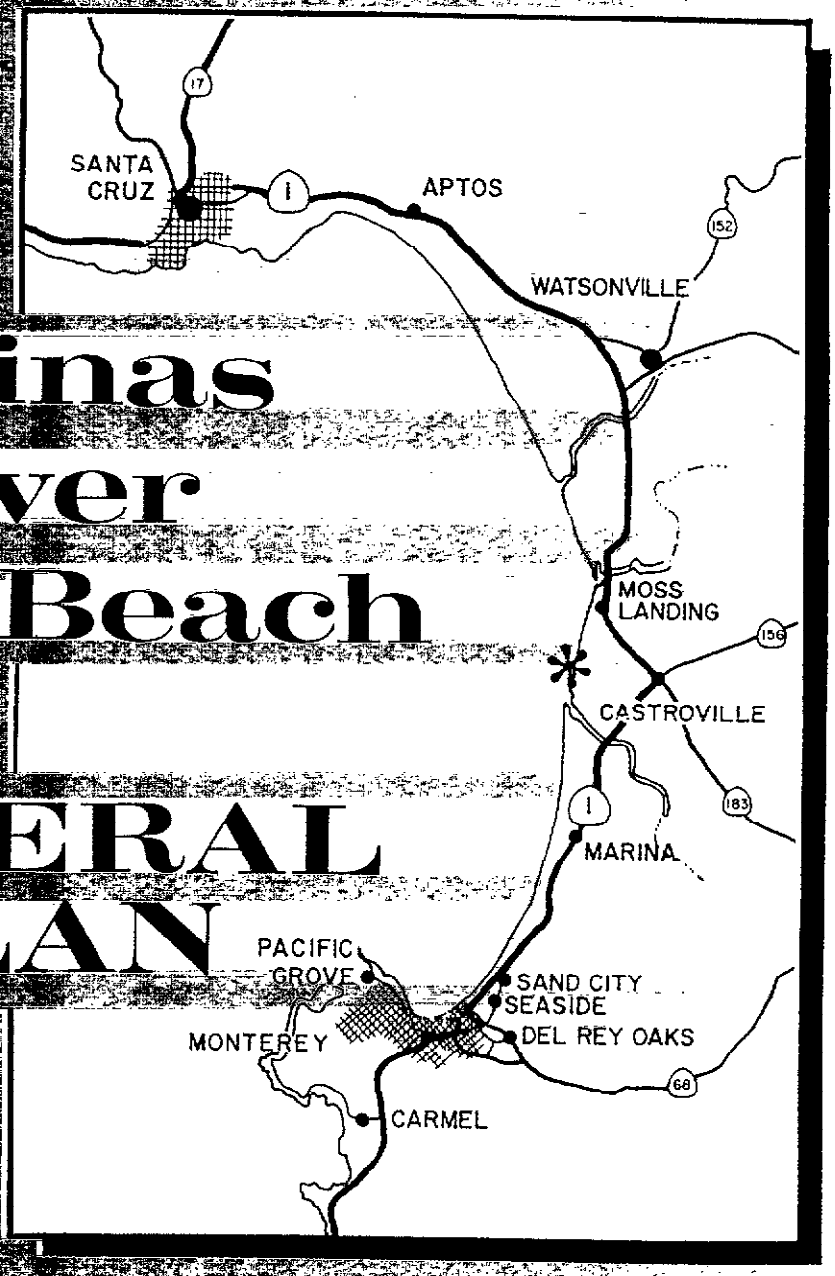
SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

GENERAL PLAN

August 1987

Salinas River State Beach

GENERAL PLAN



George Deukmejian, Governor
Gordon Van Vleck, Secretary for Resources
Henry R. Agonia, Director

State of California — The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation

— State Parks and Recreation Commission Approval — August 1987

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

Resolution 54-87
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Pacific Grove on
August 14, 1987

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Addendum for Salinas River State Beach; and

WHEREAS, this reflects long-range development plans to provide for optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's Preliminary General Plan and Addendum for Salinas River State Beach, dated May 1987, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement the provisions and objectives of said plan.

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH
GENERAL PLAN
SEPTEMBER 1990

George M. Deukmejian
Governor

Gordon K. Van Vleck
Secretary for Resources

Henry R. Agonia, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

State of California - The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation
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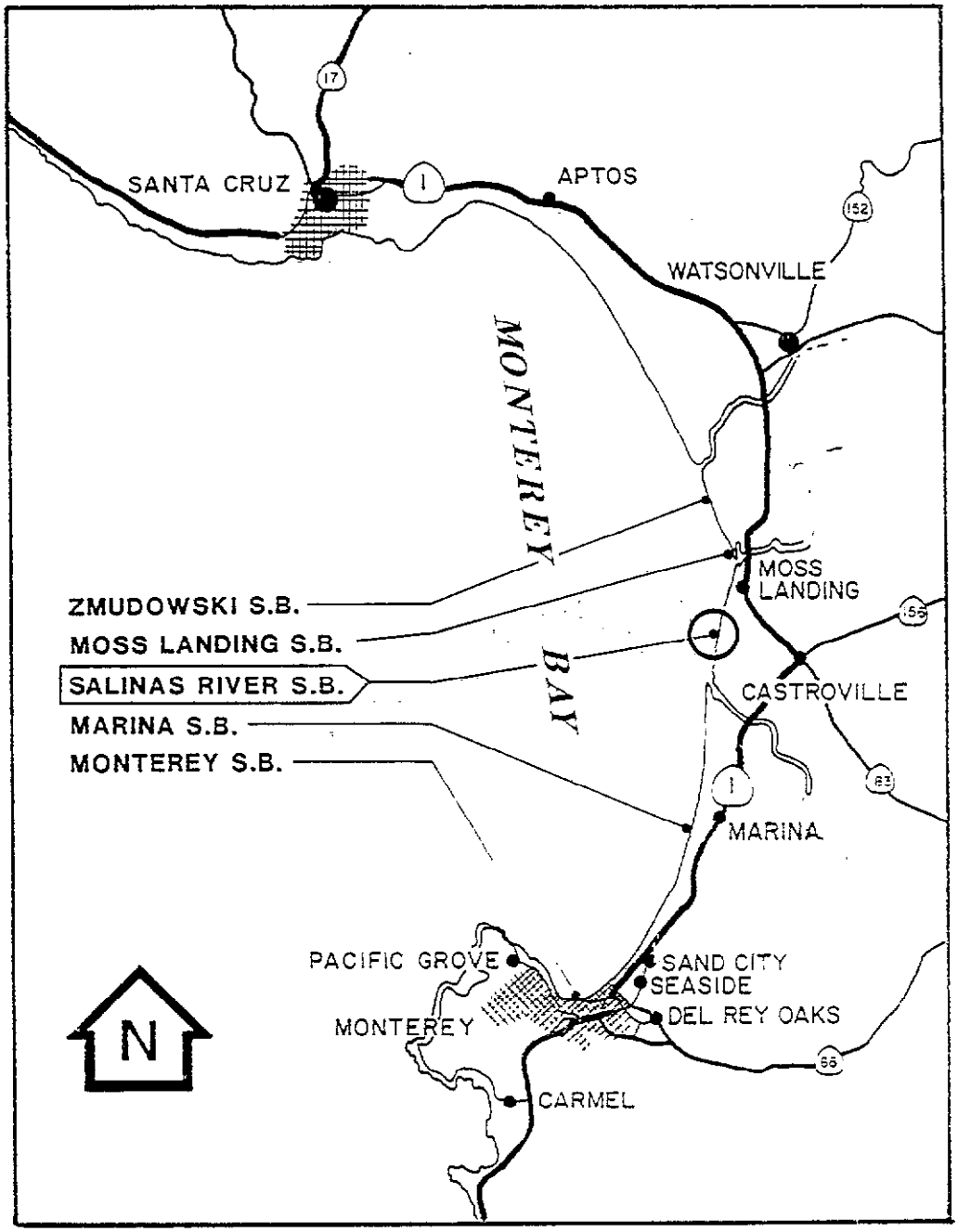

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

UNIT DATA

STATISTICS
Size: 245 acres
Ocean frontage: 15,500 linear feet
Existing facilities:
-150 parking spaces
Visitation: 170,000 visitors

VISITOR USE
Primary recreation activities include:
-Surfing fishing
-Sunbathing
-Horsebacking riding
-Beachcombing

RESOURCES
-Salinas River Mouth-Wetlands and wildlife habitat
-Sandy beach
-Coastal dunes

ISSUES AND CONCERNS
-Dune management and restoration
-Random trails throughout the dunes
-Flood control and wildlife habitat mangement (Salinas River)

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

SUMMARY

This General Plan for Salinas River State Beach was prepared as part of an overall general planning process for five state beaches in the northern portion of Monterey County. The others are Marina, Monterey, Moss Landing, and Zmudowski State Beaches.

A separate General Plan has been developed for each unit so as to clearly present the material, and more importantly to aid in the future implementation of this plan.

The plans have been developed through extensive coordination within the various departmental divisions and offices, a series of public meetings and user questionnaires, and interaction with local agencies.

All five of these state beaches are similar in that they consist of a stretch of ocean beach backed by coastal dunes. Each is unique, however, in respect to dune heights, vegetation, human disturbance, and recreation opportunities. The beaches themselves are the primary recreation resource, providing opportunities for jogging, fishing, swimming, surfing, horseback riding, and a wide variety of other uses.

This collection of beaches serves visitors both from the adjacent communities and statewide. With the exception of Monterey State Beach, these units present a rural and somewhat isolated experience for visitors. (The City of Monterey and its collection of cultural and recreational resources draw visitors statewide. The proposals of the Monterey State Beach General Plan reflect that relationship.)

Collectively these General Plans provide a wide array of uses; however, individually they will provide only those recreational uses and development that are compatible with the resource values of the unit.

Salinas River State Beach is located just south of Moss Landing, off State Highway 1, at Potrero Road. A separate access to this state beach is further south on State Highway 1 off of Molera Road.

This unit is the longest strip of state beach on the Monterey Bay (three miles). It is backed by high sand dunes that extend inland as far as 1,000 feet. The unit is bounded on its inland side by extensive agricultural lands and on much of the southern half by the Monterey Dunes condominium development. Of the state beaches situated along the Monterey Bay, this unit contains the least disturbed coastal dune ecosystem. However, many recreational trails traverse the unit and, in areas of high traffic, blowouts have occurred.

Both the foredune and the coastal scrub communities show a wide diversity of species which are outstanding examples of the natural Monterey Bay dune communities. These developed communities provide important habitat for vertebrate and invertebrate species (the unusual and relatively scarce California legless lizard (Anniella pulchra) is found here).

County roads provide access at two locations on the northern half of this three-mile stretch of beach, and parking at both areas totals 150 cars. No public roads lead from State Highway 1 to the southern portion of the state beach. Facilities include portable toilets, trash barrels, and a boardwalk for easy access to the beach. No public contact facility is established at either entrance.

The high dune formations and the long distance from the beach make surveillance of visitor activities difficult from the mid-coast parking lot. However, this seclusion is a visitor attraction in itself. Random dune trails and vehicle control at Potrero Road access are current operational problems.

Most of the proposals as described in the plan will eliminate existing adverse conditions at this state beach. Revegetation will help stabilize the dunes, and the proposed projects should be a long-term solution to the needs of the public for circulation, parking, equestrian trails, beach access, improved maintenance, esthetics, and visitor protection.

Key recommendations of the plan:

- Portions of the dune system located in the northern half of this unit and the mouth of the Salinas River will be classified as natural preserves to protect and enhance the outstanding natural values associated with this area.

- Recreation activities will be limited to the beach and along designated dune trails with periodic closures during wildlife breeding seasons or for revegetation.

- The existing parking at Potrero Road will be formalized to increase vehicle capacity to 100 cars, establish visitor contact, and to accommodate trailered vehicles and disabled access requirements.

- Additional parking will be developed by expanding the existing parking lot at Monterey Dunes Way to a total of 150 cars. This will include pull-through equestrian trailer/RV parking spaces. Permanent restroom facilities are proposed near each parking lot.

- Beach and trail access will continue from each existing parking location, and a dune trail for hiking and equestrian use will be designated through the stable dune areas between Potrero Road and Monterey Dunes parking areas.

- Dune revegetation programs shall be included as part of all trail development to ensure the proper level of dune management and resource protection.

- A dunes picnic area is proposed at the intersection of the boardwalk and mid-dune trail.

- A free-standing exhibit shelter will be located at each parking lot.

- Interpretive signing will be constructed along trails and near the river mouth to explain the resource sensitivity and significance of these areas.

- Department will work toward future local planning decisions that provide public access to the mouth of the Salinas River. (Portable toilets should then be provided.)

- Provide an employee housing site on Monterey Dunes Way near the entrance.

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

INTRODUCTION

General management and development guidelines in this plan will remain flexible through review and continued updating. The plan will act as the primary source of information for future park management and use. Specific proposals will be further refined when specific items are funded for implementation.

This plan includes the following elements:

The Resource Element is a summary of the natural, cultural, esthetic, and recreational resources of the area; it sets management policies for protection and use of these resources.

The Land Use and Facilities Element describes current and proposed land uses, and describes proposed facilities.

The Interpretive Element describes proposals and programs for public information and interpretation.

The Concessions Element describes the use of concessions in the unit.

The Operations Element describes operational guidelines for the unit.

The General Plan as a whole serves as the draft environmental impact report. Environmental impact information is presented in the Environmental Impact Element. Further environmental assessment will be performed when specific construction or management programs are proposed, and if significant environmental impacts differing from those specified in this General Plan are found, further environmental documents will be filed.

In preparing the plan, several initial goals and objectives have been established to serve as a general guide.

1. Identify the unit's cultural and natural resources.

2. Identify existing and potential problems, and provide solutions.

3. Determine land use, development, and visitor activities that are compatible with the purpose of the unit and the surrounding area.

4. Determine the potential environmental impacts of the land uses and visitor activities.

5. Establish policies for maintenance and operation, protection and preservation, development, and interpretation of the resources.

6. Establish a sequence of unit development.

7. Provide an information document for the public, the legislature, department personnel, and other government agencies.

RESOURCE ELEMENT

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

RESOURCE ELEMENT

This Resource Element was prepared to meet requirements set forth in Section 5002.2, Subsection (b) of Division 5, Chapter 1 of the Public Resources Code and Chapter 1, Section 4332 of Title 14 of the California Administrative Code. In compliance with this section of the Public Resources Code, the Resource Element sets forth long-range management objectives for the natural and cultural resources of the unit. Specific actions or limitations required to achieve these objectives are also set forth in this element; maintenance operations and details of resource management are left for inclusion in specific resource management programs that will be prepared at a later date.

Discussions about lands not now owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation have been included. The discussions are intended for planning purposes and do not represent an intention or commitment for acquisition.

Unit Description

Salinas River State Beach (245.94 acres) is adjacent to the Monterey Dunes Colony residential development in northern Monterey County within the Coastal Strip Landscape Province. The mouth of the Salinas River forms the southern unit boundary. The nearest State Park System units are Moss Landing State Beach, 1 mile north, and Marina State Beach, 5 miles south. The community of Moss Landing is less than 1 mile from the northern unit boundary, Castroville is 3 miles east, and the City of Marina is 5 miles south. The Salinas River Wildlife Management Area (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) is near the southern unit boundary, on the south side of the Salinas River mouth. The Old Salinas River channel forms a portion of the eastern boundary.

Resource Summary

Natural Resources

Topography

Salinas River State Beach is west- to northwest-facing. The prominent physiographic feature of Salinas River State Beach is the extensive sand dune system. From the beach, these dunes rise to 50 to 60 feet in height, and extend inland in some places for more than 1,000 feet. The Old Salinas River is contiguous with the northeastern boundary of the unit; the southwestern portion of the unit is bounded by the mouth of the Salinas River. Total ocean frontage is 15,500 linear feet.

Meteorology

Northern California experiences a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters and warm, dry summers. The waters of the Pacific Ocean have a profound moderating effect on temperatures along the coast, producing a maritime temperature regime with mild temperatures year-round. Mean daily maximum temperatures for the months of May through November at Salinas River State Beach are in the low to mid 60s and mean daily minimums are in the high 40s.

For December through April, mean daily maximums are in the high 50s and mean daily minimums are in the middle 40s. Mean annual precipitation is estimated at 18 inches. Most of this precipitation (83%) occurs during the months of November through March.

Windy conditions are the norm around Monterey Bay; the weather station in the City of Monterey reports wind speeds of 4 to 15 miles per hour about 75% of the time, and strong winds, 16 to 31 miles per hour, are recorded 5% of the time. Calm, winds less than 4 miles per hour, is recorded about 20% of the time.

Fog, or fog-generated low clouds, occurs during all seasons, but is most common on summer mornings and evenings. The Monterey Bay area has fog 12% of the time during July through September. As a consequence of the foggy summers and frequent winter storms, this area only receives about 3,000 hours of sunshine or about 70% of possible.

Microclimatic zones, areas which depart from the general climatic factors (e.g., insolation, temperature, or soil moisture), are generated at Salinas River State Beach by the ocean, the prevailing breeze, the coastal fog, the sandy beach, and the coastal dune formation.

Water reflects only half as much solar insolation as land; hence, the ocean stores more energy during the day and releases more energy at night. However, because of its lower specific heat, the land warms up and cools down two to three times as fast as the ocean. These energy storage and temperature differences, together with the prevailing onshore breeze, moderate high and low temperatures near the coast. When the coastal fog moves inland, it enhances this moderating effect. At first, it produces a sudden chill that chases visitors from the beach; thereafter, it acts as a thermal blanket, keeping air and soil temperatures almost constant.

White beach sand, and surf, reflect about half the solar radiation. This extra half-dose of sunshine accounts for the unexpected sunburns of many inexperienced beach users.

Salinas River State Beach is composed entirely of sand dunes. The high reflectivity of dune sand and its low water-holding capacity create a generally arid, cool habitat. The topographic aspect of this site is open to the prevailing northwesterly winds. The interaction of these winds, salt spray from the surf, the complex pattern of wind-sheltered, partially sheltered, and open areas, and the migration of the dunes create a complex pattern of microclimatic variation.

Hydrology

Salinas River State Beach is situated within the Lower Salinas Valley Hydrologic Area in the Central Coastal Hydrologic Basin. The Salinas River drainage is the largest watershed in central coastal California. In the vicinity of Salinas River State Beach, its principal tributaries are the Old Salinas River, Tembladero Slough, and Moro Cojo Slough. Approximately 43 acres of Salinas River drainage, at the mouth of the river, occur within this unit. There are several possible sources of floodwater within Salinas River State Beach: 1) flooding along the Salinas River during periods of high precipitation; 2) coastal flooding from winter storm surges; 3) tsunami-induced

coastal flooding; and 4) flooding caused by the possible failure of the San Antonio and Nacimiento reservoir dams. Soils peripheral to the Salinas and Old Salinas Rivers are underlain by a high water table, and seasonal ponds form to the north of the Salinas River mouth. Groundwater and surface water quality are poor in Salinas River State Beach. Groundwater is contaminated by saltwater intrusion. Agricultural runoff, heavy metals, and coliform bacteria contaminate surface waters.

Geology

Salinas River State Beach is within the Salinian block of the southern Coast Ranges geomorphic province. The Salinian block is a wedge of continental crust-type material bounded on the northeast by the San Andreas fault zone (about 11 miles northeast of Salinas River State Beach) and on the southwest by the Sur-Nacimiento fault zone. The 1906 earthquake along the San Andreas fault profoundly affected the topography, hydrology, and geomorphology of Salinas River State Beach. The earthquake resulted in a southward shift of the mouth of the Salinas River of almost a mile. Up to that time, the old Salinas River channel until 1906 had been the main channel for the river. The continental basement rocks of the Salinian block are granitic and metamorphic in nature, and owe their origins to a distant time and place, having "ridden" northwest along the boundary between the Pacific and North American plates which juxtapose very different basement rocks. However, no bedrock is exposed at Salinas River State Beach. The unit is made up entirely of sand dune deposits and the sandy beach.

The dunes and beach at Salinas River State Beach are highly erodible, as they submit to the sometimes erosive effects of the meandering mouth of the Salinas River just downcoast from the unit boundary, to the unbuffered ocean wave attack, and to the network of volunteer trails cutting through the vegetated dunes. Comparison of historical and modern-day aerial photos reveals that the beach configuration has altered considerably, apparently in direct response to the condition of the river mouth and ocean waves. In 1961, the beach was fairly straight and somewhat consistent in width. A few volunteer trails cut through the dunes from a farming center to the sandy beach. A single main trail along the ridge of the foredune ran the extent of the state beach. In May 1978, the river mouth was open and the southernmost buildings of the Monterey Dunes Colony had a wide sandy beach protecting them. Many trails proliferated from the northern, older Colony buildings. The beach was still fairly straight. In April 1984, the river mouth was closed and the southern Colony buildings had lost much of the previously existing protective beach. However, a wide beach had built up seaward of the tennis courts (possible upcoast migration of Salinas River sediments). In 1978, the upcoast access area showed some vegetated remains in the dunes; unfortunately, by 1984 the area was devoid of vegetation and was an active blowout.

Soils

Coastal beaches, dune land, Alviso silty clay loam, and Pacheco clay loam are the principal soils and land types at Salinas River State Beach.

The coastal beach land type occurs on narrow sandy beaches and adjacent sand dunes and consists of sand, gravel, or cobbles, or a mixture of these. Coastal beaches are exposed during low tides and inundated at high tide. Drainage is very poor to excessive; erodibility is high.

Dune land is a miscellaneous category consisting of sloping to very steep terrain derived from wind-deposited sand. Drainage and permeability are very rapid. In areas where native vegetation has been removed, wind erosion hazard is high. Dune land is extensive within Salinas River State Beach.

Alviso silty clay loam is a nearly level soil that has formed in tidal basins and on tidal flats. This soil occurs in a narrow band on the western bank of the Old Salinas River at the northeastern boundary of the unit. The water table is at a depth of 6 to 12 inches. Water runs off very slowly and often ponds. Erosion hazard is minimal. The surface layer is gray to olive gray and neutral; the subsurface layer is light gray and mildly alkaline.

Pacheco clay loam, 0 to 2% slope, is a poorly drained soil that formed on floodplains in alluvium derived from sedimentary rocks. The surface layer is dark gray, slightly acid to mildly alkaline. The substrate is grayish brown, mottled, moderately alkaline. Permeability is moderately slow and the shrink-swell potential is low. Erosion hazard is moderate to high. Pacheco clay loam occurs inland from the extensive sand dune ecosystem within the unit. The soil is found along the floodplain of the Old Salinas River.

Plant Life

There are three communities at Salinas River State Beach: foredune, coastal scrub, and dune pond. Both the foredune and the coastal scrub communities show a wide diversity of species, of which a large percentage are natives. They are outstanding examples of the natural Monterey Bay dune communities.

The most common species of the foredune are sea rocket (Cakile maritima), sand verbena (Abronia umbellata and A. latifolia), beach bur (Ambrosia chamissonis), sea fig and Hottentot fig (Carpobrotus aequilaterus and C. edulis), sea lyme-grass (Elymus mollis), and European dune grass (Ammophila arenaria). Many foredunes along California's coast have been dominated by the exotic European dune grass. Although it is present in some areas in Salinas River State Beach, the native foredune grass, sea lyme-grass, is dominant.

The coastal scrub community occupies a narrow strip between the foredune and the Old Salinas River channel. The most common species are mock heather (Haplopappus ericoidies), coast buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium), dune buckwheat (Eriogonum parvifolium), seaside wooly sunflower (Eriophyllum staechadifolium), bluff lettuce (Dudleya farinosa), and sea fig (Carpobrotus aequilaterus).

The dune pond in the southern end of Salinas River State Beach was created by the shifting mouth of the Salinas River. The seasonal pond is surrounded by a sparse cover of water-loving plants which include sedges, rushes, and grasses.

The dunes at Salinas River State Beach are remarkably pristine for public dunes on the coast of California. However, many recreational trails traverse the unit and, in areas of high traffic, blowouts have occurred. At the south end of the unit, the dunes are privately owned and have undergone condominium development.

Castilleja latifolia (Monterey paintbrush), a plant listed as a rare species by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), is abundant throughout the foredune and coastal strand. Its rarity is based upon the rarity of the vegetation type it inhabits. The state-listed endangered Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria (slender flowered gilia) occurs on the rear dunes in the southern portion of the unit.

The flora at the unit is predominantly native. The species list contains 11 species which are exotic to the area.

Animal Life

The two biotic communities at Salinas River State Beach are well developed and provide important habitat for vertebrate and invertebrate species. Of the state beaches situated along the Monterey Bay, this unit contains the least disturbed coastal dune ecosystem.

Coastal strand includes the littoral zone and beach. Gulls and shorebirds commonly rest on the beach between periods of foraging in the intertidal zone. The Salinas River flows through the southern portion of the unit. Exposed sandbars, open water, and adjacent beaches provide important resting and feeding areas for a variety of birds. These birds include Caspian, elegant, and royal terns, many species of gulls and waterfowl, and shorebirds such as dunlin, sanderlings, and willets. More than 100 California brown pelicans have been observed in this area.

The coastal dune biotic community at Salinas River State Beach includes foredune and coastal dune scrub vegetation. The diverse vegetation provides food, cover, and nesting sites for many species of birds and animals. Mammals are represented by deer mice, California ground squirrels, and brush rabbits. Birds found here include California quail, savannah sparrow, and red-tailed hawk. Reptiles and amphibians are represented by the Pacific tree frog, coast garter snake, and northern alligator lizard. A seasonal dune pond forms in the southern portion of the unit adjacent to the Salinas River. The pond is surrounded by sedges, rushes, and grasses. Several breeding pairs of American avocets and black-necked stilts were observed nesting in the vicinity of the pond.

The coastal dune scrub community at Salinas River State Beach provides habitat for the federally listed endangered Smith's blue butterfly. The host plant for this insect, coast buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium and E. parvifolium), is widespread in this unit. Smith's blue butterfly is also known to occur in the Salinas River Wildlife Management Area, which is situated immediately south of Salinas River State Beach. Coastal dune scrub within the state beach may also provide habitat for the black legless lizard, a species of special concern. Another species of special concern, the snowy plover, has been observed on the beach and nest near the mouth of the Salinas River.

Seventeen species of fish have been collected or reported from the mouth of the Salinas River. Nine of the species are euryhaline, four are freshwater, and four are anadromous. Thirteen of the species are native and four are introduced:

Euryhaline	Freshwater	Anadromous
* Threadfin shad	Sacramento sucker	Green sturgeon
* Mosquitofish	* Brown bullhead	Pacific herring
Topsmelt	Sacramento perch	Steelhead
Threespine stickleback	Prickly sculpin	* Stripped bass
Shiner perch		
Tidewater goby		
Longjaw mudsucker		
Starry flounder		
Staghorn sculpin		

(* introduced)

Of the species listed above, the Sacramento perch is now extirpated from the Salinas River and the green sturgeon is probably only an occasional visitor.

Marine Life

Located within Monterey Bay, the marine environment off Salinas River State Beach is part of the Central California Seascape Province, a region of characteristic geological and biological features extending south from San Francisco Bay to Point Conception.

The marine ecosystem consists of two principal environments, benthic and pelagic. The pelagic environment is the open water from the surface to the sea floor. Benthic environments are on the ocean floor and are defined on the basis of depth, substrate, and tidal influences. There are two significant benthic habitats at Salinas River, intertidal and subtidal.

The intertidal benthic zone is the sandy beach area between high and low tides. This zone is limited in biological productivity due to the daily exposure to the atmosphere and the constantly shifting sand. Nevertheless, some species, primarily burrowing animals, occur here. The most common burrowing animals are blood worms and the mole crab. Scavangers are also present, primarily beach hoppers. When the tide is in, several fish, including surf perch, diamond turbot, and round stingray, utilize this habitat. When the tide is out, the major vertebrates are foraging shorebirds such as willets and sanderlings.

The subtidal benthic zone extends from the lowest tide line to a depth of 30 feet and is primarily composed of unconsolidated sand. The dominant species that dwells within the substrate is the polychaete tube worm. Species that dwell on the substrate include dungeness crab and short-spined sea star. Fish that commonly occur in this zone are sanddabs, California halibut, and starry flounder.

The pelagic environment provides habitat for floating and swimming organisms. Floating organisms include the phytoplankton, zooplankton, crustaceans, jellyfish, and copepods. Fish in this zone include surf perch, rockfish, and black smelt. Marine mammals occurring occasionally in this zone include harbor seals and California sea lions. A number of inshore seabirds such as western grebe, surf scoter, Caspian tern, and gulls also utilize this habitat.

The state-listed (threatened) Guadalupe fur seal may occasionally forage near Marina State Beach (a small male was found beached in Monterey Bay in 1977). The federally-listed (threatened) southern sea otter occurs in Monterey Bay and may occasionally be seen from the unit as it migrates between kelp beds, its preferred habitat. Many of the fish and birds which inhabit the marine environment off Salinas River are of commercial, recreational, and ecological importance.

Ecology

Many small ecosystems occur in the coastal and marine environments of Monterey Bay. These small systems are interrelated by physical and biological elements.

Streams, bluffs, and cliffs contribute sediments to marine ecosystems, which are then redistributed by oceanic currents. As a result of the current pattern in Monterey Bay, the benthic marine environment at Salinas River is sandy. Nutrients associated with these sediments are important to marine life in the nearshore zone. Upwelling of cold bottom waters, however, provides the greatest source of nutrients. These nutrients greatly enhance the biological productivity in nearshore marine ecosystems. Because of the upwelling, Monterey Bay is one of the richest marine basins in California.

With extensive agricultural encroachment upon areas surrounding Salinas River State Beach, the ecosystems in the unit are important as vestiges of the natural condition, or as significant habitat for specific plants and animals. Salinas River State Beach has been identified as an important natural area by the California Natural Areas Coordination Council (CNACC). The unit has excellent examples of native coastal strand vegetation and habitat value for the California black legless lizard. The CNACC also lists the Salinas River estuary and lower reaches as a natural area, primarily for its roosting value to various seabirds.

Cultural Resources

Archeological Sites

One previously recorded prehistoric midden, archeological site MNT-616, has been located in the leeward side of the dunes. There are a variety of constituents in this sandy deposit that appear to represent a small village or frequently used camp site. This is the only site in all the state beaches around Monterey Bay that has integrity, depth, and a high potential for yielding additional information that could be important to our understanding of prehistory.

One other prehistoric midden, recorded in 1950 as archeological site SCR-279, could not be located during a 1984 survey. It was probably buried under blow sand, or may have been inadvertently destroyed by construction of the Monterey Dunes Colony access road.

One historic trash dump was discovered in the dunes and recorded as site MNT-1289H. It includes clam shell and household trash, probably an infrequently used domestic dump site, perhaps from a nearby turn-of-the-century farm.

Archeological sites MNT-616 and MNT-1289H are not threatened by erosion or disturbance. These sites are adequately protected by the existing undeveloped land use and by existing policies.

Standing Structures

There are no historic standing structures in Salinas River State Beach.

Ethnographic Background

The Indians who lived along the coast from San Francisco Bay to Monterey Bay are generally referred to as Costanoan, though the name Ohlone has become more popular in recent years among native descendents. The terms are an abstraction for a linguistic family of eight distinct languages. Three different languages were spoken on Monterey Bay: Awaswas from Aptos upcoast to Davenport, Mutsun in the Pajaro and lower Salinas River valleys, and Rumsen from about Marina downcoast to the Sur River.

Political organization was limited to a tribelet level consisting of one or more villages, served by a chief and council of elders. Each of the approximately 50 tribelets was like an autonomous nation. Tribelet territories were apparently well defined and defended, with warfare commonly mentioned in historical accounts. Marine resources provided items for trade to inland neighbors, primarily mussels, abalone shells, salt, and dried abalone. Pinon pine nuts and obsidian were obtained as imports.

Prayers, offerings, dreams, dances, and shamanism were important in Ohlone religious life. Musical instruments included whistles, flutes, rattles, and a musical bow. Several types of games and gambling were popular. Most houses were dome-shaped, using thatch to cover a pole framework, and large enough for 10 to 15 persons. Animal skins were used for robes (on cold days), blankets, and bedding, along with tule mats. Baskets were used for storing household items, and especially for collecting, processing, and storing food.

Acorns provided the bulk of the diet, supplemented by a variety of other nuts, seeds, berries, roots, and shoots. Animals were hunted, trapped, and fished, including most of the mammals and reptiles in the area, waterfowl and other birds, and insects. Extensive burning of brush and grasslands helped to improve the hunting and gathering potential of the lands while reducing the danger of wildfires. Beached whales, sea otters, and sea lions were roasted and eaten. Mussels and abalone were gathered, though this resource was probably never abundant along the sandy bay from Aptos to Monterey.

The seven missions in Ohlone territory had cataclysmic and devastating effects on the native population and traditional culture. The Indians living around Monterey Bay were drawn into missions at Santa Cruz, San Juan Bautista, and San Carlos.

Historic Background

Gaspar de Portola's 1769 expedition, and the Rivera-Palou and Hezeta and Palou expeditions of 1774 and 1775, initiated Spanish occupation and missionization of the Monterey Bay area. This missionization activity proved disastrous for the Native Americans. Mexican secularization of the mission system in 1834

further dispersed the remaining Costanoan peoples. Simultaneously with orders for mission secularization came requests for Mexican land grants. For the most part, however, the land encompassing the present-day beach units in Monterey County retained its status as the pueblo lands of Monterey prior to statehood.

Present-day Salinas River State Beach was originally encompassed by these pueblo lands and the 2,220-acre Rancho Rincon de las Salinas, granted to Cristina Delgado in 1833. Rincon de las Salinas, meaning "corner of the salt marshes," covered what is now the lower portion of the beach unit. The grant was confirmed to Rafael Estrada in 1857.

The pueblo lands, claimed by Monterey as city lands in 1853, included the northern section of present-day Salinas River State Beach. This 110-acre parcel of land, known as Tract III of the Monterey City Lands, was subsequently purchased by D. Jacks who succeeded in acquiring well over 30,000 acres in Monterey County in the last half of the 19th century. Cox's 1877 Official Map of Monterey County depicts the extent of his holdings. Jacks, who acquired both wealth and land through loan brokerage, became perhaps the wealthiest individual in 19th-century Monterey County.

His remaining holdings were eventually subdivided, and the land east of present-day Salinas River State Beach was devoted to farming. The State of California purchased an additional 90 acres in 1960 (a 45-acre parcel from W. C. and M. E. Sandholt and a 45-acre parcel from M. A. King and L. M. Scattini).

Esthetic Resources

The primary esthetic feature of Salinas River State Beach is its excellent example of dune-associated vegetation -- small pastel carpets of wildflowers, long-blooming Indian paintbrush, and brush vegetation in various hues of green. Other positive scenic features are the solitary sandy beach, the varying, visual texture of the dunes, and the blue expanse of Monterey Bay.

Negative scenic features include the residential enclave of obtrusive condominiums and skeletal trails eroded through the sand dunes.

Recreation Resources

The coastal area of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties is one of the major recreation destinations in California. This area was the destination for roughly one out of 20 recreation trips (4.6%) within the state by Californians in 1980. These trips brought 5,760,000 recreation visitors to the two counties, not including local residents and visitors from out of state. In addition to these "destination" visitors, this area is very popular with persons touring through or enroute to another destination.

Nineteen major recreation activities currently occur at Salinas River State Beach; of these, nine are strongly dependent on the ocean or ocean beach and six are dependent on other natural resources of the unit. Coastal sand dunes are of limited occurrence in California, and recreation activities that are primarily dependent on the dunes are of outstanding statewide significance. Activities at Salinas River State Beach include photography, painting, bird watching, other nature study, and esthetic appreciation. Activities that are

primarily dependent on sandy beaches, and which would not heavily impact the adjacent sand dunes because they are typically a low density use at this unit, include sunbathing, beachcombing, and surf fishing.

There is relatively little Scuba and snorkel diving adjacent to this state beach because the uniform sandy substrate does not provide habitat for the diverse and colorful assemblages of marine plants and animals that attract residential divers to other areas in the Monterey Bay region.

Resource Policy Formulation

Classification

Salinas River State Beach has been a unit of the State Park System since 1960. The unit was classified as a state beach by the State Park and Recreation Commission in November 1962. The Public Resources Code defines a state beach as a type of state recreation unit as follows:

> 5019.56. State Recreation Units. State recreation units consist of areas selected, developed, and operated to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Such units shall be designated by the Commission by naming, in accordance with the provisions of Article 1 (commencing with Section 5001) and this article relating to classification.
>
> In the planning of improvements to be undertaken within state recreation units, consideration shall be given to compatibility of design with the surrounding scenic and environmental characteristics.
>
> State recreation units may be established in the terrestrial or underwater environments of the state and shall be further classified as one of the following types: . . .
>
> (d) State beaches, consisting of areas with frontage on the ocean, or bays designed to provide swimming, boating, fishing, and other beach-oriented recreational activities. Coastal areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant value shall be preserved within state wildernesses, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves.

Declaration of Purpose

The purpose of Salinas River State Beach is to protect and perpetuate the area's natural resource values and to provide beach-oriented recreation opportunities for the enlightenment, inspiration, and enjoyment of present and future generations. The prime resource values of the park are the coastal dunes, the native vegetation which inhabits the dunes and stabilizes them, the associated wildlife species, and the recreational resource of the ocean beach. Recreational uses within the dunes will be restricted to those that directly relate to and do not degrade or damage the primary resource values.

Zone of Primary Interest

The zone of primary interest is that area outside the unit where land use changes could adversely affect the operation of Salinas River State Beach. This zone includes the adjacent Monterey Dunes Colony condominium complex and the agricultural fields adjacent to the unit. Management practices in the agricultural area, particularly the use of pesticides and fertilizers, affect air, soil, and groundwater quality within the unit. The department is also concerned about flood control operations on the Salinas River and the Old Salinas River channel; both are adjacent to this unit.

In addition, the department is interested in all lands, no matter how far away, that through their use and development adversely affect the unit's resources and features. Air pollution and acid rain are regional problems that affect the unit's resources and may be affected by changing land uses on distant lands. The damming of rivers and the building of breakwaters and other structures along the coast, which disrupt littoral sand movement and may increase coastal erosion, is another problem affecting the unit.

Resource Management Policies

Resource management in the State Park System is governed by laws contained in the Public Resources Code and the California Administrative Code, and is further guided by directives approved by the department's director and by policies approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission. General policies related to the unit classification and the declaration of purpose have been addressed in previous sections.

Specific departmental Resource Management Directives amplify the legal codes and provide clearer management guidelines. Directives especially pertinent to existing or potential problems related to the management of resources within Salinas River State Beach are:

#15 State Recreation Units; protection of resources
#18 State Beaches; avoid using sandy beaches for secondary uses
#19 State Beaches; protection of resources
#33 Exotic Plant Species
#35 Wildlife Protection
#46 Environmental Quality
#58 Cultural Resource Protection
#70 Archeological Sites

Directives #18 and #19 are particularly relevant to planning issues for the state beaches along Monterey Bay:

> (18) Insofar as is possible in state beaches, the entire area of the sandy littorals will be available for recreation use and visual enjoyment. It is an objective of the department to avoid use of natural sandy beaches for parking or for other supportive or secondary uses.

(19) The scenic, natural, and cultural values of state beaches, including the ecological relationships of the littoral, tidal, and nearshore areas will be identified, evaluated, and protected so the total quality of the recreation experience may be perpetuated and enhanced.

Following several years of significant storm damage in many coastal State Park System units, the department adopted a policy for coastal erosion on October 24, 1984. The intent of the policy is to avoid construction of new permanent facilities in areas subject to coastal erosion, and to promote the use of expendable or movable facilities where the expected useful life is limited due to their location in erosion-prone areas. The policy reads as follows:

> The Department of Parks and Recreation shall avoid construction of new structures and coastal facilities in areas subject to ocean wave erosion, seacliff retreat, and unstable cliffs, unless specific determinations have been made that the risk of loss of the facility is clearly offset by the investment and need for the facility. Measures shall be taken to minimize human-induced erosion by reducing: concentrated surface runoff from use areas, elevated groundwater levels from irrigation and urbanization, and surface disturbance of blufftop soils. In recognition of California's actively eroding coastline, new structures and facilities located in areas known to be subject to ocean wave erosion, seacliff retreat, or unstable bluffs shall be expendable or movable. Structural protection and reprotection of developments shall be allowed only when the cost of protection is commensurate with the value (physical and intrinsic) of the development to be protected, and when it can be shown that the protection will not negatively affect the beach or the near-shore environment.

In addition to the policies, directives, and laws that apply statewide, the following resource management policies have been prepared for Salinas River State Beach:

Monitoring Erosion and Sand Loss

Beach erosion and seacliff retreat have been recognized as serious threats to public facilities and use of coastal units of the State Park System. Better baseline information on erosion rates is needed to plan for appropriate land use, resource management, and visitor safety.

> Policy: A monitoring program shall be established at Salinas River State Beach to document beach elevation and width. The monitoring program should include the comparison of recent and historical aerial photos, ground photos with explanations, and installation of permanent monuments, if necessary. The program should be coordinated with the U.S. Geological Survey (which has already begun a beach monitoring program), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Boating and Waterways, and the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Shoreline Protective Devices

Segments of Salinas River State Beach are backed by the Monterey Dunes Colony. Presently, the development is well set back behind the foredunes, and the buildings are not threatened by erosion. However, it is possible that the foredunes could erode, leaving the structures subject to wave attack. Structural protection measures are not consistent with the general objectives for resource management within the State Park System. In certain circumstances, however, when the public or private facility is of greater necessity and importance than the natural and recreational resources that may be negatively affected, structural protection measures may be appropriate.

Policy: Structural protection measures shall be undertaken only if nonstructural measures (i.e., relocation of facility, setback, redesign, or beach replenishment) are not feasible. If a protective structure is constructed (i.e., riprap, rock revetment, seawall, etc.), the structure shall not:

1) Significantly reduce or restrict beach access;
2) Adversely affect shoreline processes and sand supply;
3) Significantly increase erosion on adjacent properties;
4) Cause harmful impacts on vegetation, wildlife, or fish habitats;
5) Be placed further than necessary from the development requiring protection; or
6) Create a significant visual intrusion.

Sand Replenishment

The beach at Salinas River State Beach has narrowed in recent years as severe storms have removed some of the buffering sand wedge below the dunes, carrying the beach sand to deep water and possibly into the Monterey submarine canyon. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Boating and Waterways are embarking on a Monterey Bay erosion study, in cooperation with the Department of Parks and Recreation, U.C. Santa Cruz, and the U.S. Geological Survey. These studies are primarily data collection efforts. They will, however, be oriented to developing solutions to perceived problems. One potentially beneficial solution to increased erosion and loss of land base and valuable structures would be to supplement the wave-buffering beach with appropriately-sized materials from offshore or inland sources.

Policy: DPR shall coordinate with the various agencies studying storm damage and beach erosion problems of Monterey Bay to develop regional nonstructural solutions to the erosion problems. Beach replenishment shall receive serious consideration as an ongoing, nondestructive solution to the problem, which will also result in a more substantial recreational land base.

Groundwater Quality

Aquifers within the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin are open to the Pacific Ocean. Under normal conditions, as long as groundwater flows seaward, saltwater will not intrude into groundwater basins. However, if the water table is lowered to, or below, sea level by overpumping, a landward hydraulic

is established which permits seawater to move inland. Saltwater has intruded wells in coastal Monterey County, including those in Salinas River State Beach. General groundwater quality is poor.

Policy: The department shall work with the State Water Resources Control Board and with appropriate agencies in the County of Monterey to develop adequate water management plans for Salinas River State Beach to reduce groundwater overdraft and to reduce or eliminate pollution of groundwater basins.

Groundwater Quantity

Maximum safe groundwater yield from groundwater basins in the central coastal region has been reached. Because net urban demands for Santa Cruz and Monterey counties exceed the rate at which groundwater is replenished, continued overdraft of groundwater will result in degraded water supplies. By the year 2000, urban, wildlife, and recreation water requirements are expected to exceed safe yield by approximately 134 million acre-feet/year. Consequently, no further development of groundwater is possible in the Soquel Valley, Pajaro Valley, and Salinas Valley hydrologic basins.

Policy: In order to minimize depletion of groundwater in central coastal groundwater basins, the department shall work with the State Water Resources Control Board and appropriate agencies in the County of Monterey to develop surface water sources for Salinas River State Beach.

Salinas River Mouth

The mouth of the Salinas River is an important wildlife area. In recognition of the value of this area to wildlife, the south side of the river mouth has been acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and designated a Wildlife Management Area. The north side of the river, within Salinas River State Beach, includes a shallow pond formed in a depression on the meandering Salinas River mouth. The pond and the adjacent dune area provide important nesting and feeding habitat for two wading bird species, the black-necked stilt and the American avocet.

The vegetation in this area is a very good example of a diverse native dune plant community. The dense stands of coast buckwheat (Eriogonum sp.) in this area indicate that the area provides excellent potential habitat for the endangered Smith's blue butterfly. This area is also very good habitat for the rare black legless lizard.

Emergency flood control activities by the Monterey County Flood Control District during 1983 resulted in damage to the area's habitat values. The damage included placement of riprap along the river bank and movement of heavy equipment through the dunes.

Policy: In recognition of the area's outstanding resource values, the portion of Salinas River State Beach adjacent to the Salinas River shall be considered for designation as a natural preserve.

DPR shall work with the Monterey County Flood Control District to minimize negative impacts of any future flood control activities and restore the area to a natural condition.

General Vegetation Management

It is the goal of the department to preserve and perpetuate representative examples of natural plant communities common to the unit and the region. The plant communities at Salinas River State Beach have been influenced by road and condominium development adjacent to the unit, concentrated or intense recreational use, and invasion by exotic species. The net results of such impacts and alterations include the loss of vegetation and sand, unnatural community structures, alteration of the extent and distribution of many native species, and the invasion of exotics which creates deleterious competition with native species.

> Policy: The primary objective of vegetation management shall be to manage toward a natural condition with minimum disruption to natural processes. The secondary objective shall be to restore and perpetuate the native plant communities that prevailed in the area prior to Euroamerican influences.

Coastal Dune Management

Dune systems are composed of unconsolidated sand that has been transported from the beach environment by strong onshore winds. The dunes are stabilized with vegetation. Human activities in the dunes can destroy the vegetation and thereby destabilize the dunes. Typically, once vegetation is removed, a dune blowout forms where steady sand movement makes natural revegetation of the area very difficult. If human use of the blowout area continues, natural revegetation is virtually impossible.

Coastal dunes provide important plant and animal habitats. Many species are endemic to this habitat type. The use of coastal areas for residential, agricultural, and industrial purposes has destroyed most of the native coastal dune habitat in California. Heavy recreational use has lowered the quality of the dune habitat in many areas. Along Monterey Bay, most of the remaining natural dune environment is within units of the State Park System. The continued existence of coastal dunes and the species dependent upon this habitat type is dependent upon the effective stewardship of the coastal dune resource by the department.

> Policy: Human activities within the dunes shall be regulated to prevent destruction of the natural dune environment. Hiking, horseback riding, hang gliding, and other recreation uses shall be restricted to designated areas and routes. Destabilized areas within the dunes shall be revegetated. In order to maintain the genetic integrity and diversity of California native plants, revegetation efforts will utilize native plants from local populations. In recognition of the outstanding natural values of the Salinas River State Beach dune system, the dunes portion of the unit shall be considered for designation as a natural preserve.

Rare and Endangered Plants

The Monterey Bay area is rich in rare, endangered, and endemic species. Of 18 rare plant species known to occur in the bay's coastal strand and scrub habitats, seven have been confirmed to occur in State Park System units. *Castilleja latifolia* (Monterey paintbrush) and *Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*

(slender flowered gilia) are known to occur within Salinas River State Beach. Monterey paintbrush is listed as rare by the California Native Plant Society. The slender flowered gilia is a candidate for State listing as endangered.

Protection of rare and endangered species habitat is an important objective in the statewide management of the State Park System. Rare and endangered plants can be inadvertently destroyed by development of facilities, maintenance programs, visitor use, or other activities, especially when the exact population locations, habitat requirements, and tolerances are not known.

Policy: Rare and endangered plants found within Salinas River State Beach boundaries shall be protected and managed for their perpetuation.

Systematic surveys for rare and endangered plants shall be made throughout the unit. If any rare or endangered species is found, all populations shall be mapped and management plans developed for their protection and perpetuation.

Prior to any site-specific development or heavy use activities, additional surveys shall be made for rare or endangered plants during the flowering season in the areas that will be impacted.

Landscaping

Exotic species can detract from the natural appearance of the state beach, escape into the wild and displace native species, have less habitat value for native wildlife, be more prone to insect attack and disease, and require permanent irrigation and greater maintenance costs.

Policy: Landscaping in developed areas should consist of species indigenous to the state beach. If exotic species are used, these shall be species that are incapable of naturalizing in the wild and that would not require a permanent irrigation system.

Allowable Use Intensity

The California Public Resources Code, Section 5019.5, requires that a land carrying capacity survey be made prior to the preparation of any development plan for any park or recreation area. Section 5001.96 further requires that attendance be held within limits so established. Allowable use intensity is a refinement of the land carrying capacity concept and is prepared as part of the Resource Element of the General Plan in fulfillment of the above code sections.

Allowable use intensity is just one of several factors considered in developing the Land Use Element of the General Plan. Other factors that may also be considered in determining land use for any unit of the State Park System are classification and purpose, recreation needs, design considerations, and social carrying capacity or the desired quality of the recreation experience.

Allowable use intensity determinations establish the limits of development and use an area can sustain without an unacceptable degree of deterioration in the character and value of the scenic, natural, and cultural resources. Determinations are based on analysis and integration of resource management and protection objectives, resource constraints, and resource sensitivities information.

Resource management objectives are defined by the Public Resources Code and other law, unit classifications and declarations of purpose, and by specific declarations of resource management policy presented in this Resource Element.

Resource constraints are factors that would make visitor use or facility development unsafe, economically impractical, or undesirable. They are determined by evaluating such factors as erodibility and compaction potential of soils, geologic hazards, slope stability and relief, hydrologic conditions, potential for pollution of surface waters, and flooding.

Sensitivities are conditions, locations, or values of resources that warrant restricted use or development to protect resources. Sensitivities are evaluated by considering such factors as the ability of the ecosystem to withstand human impact (ecological sensitivity), not only in the short term but also over a more extended time span; the fragility and significance of archeological and historical resources; vegetation characteristics such as durability, fragility, and regeneration rates; and wildlife considerations such as tolerance to human activity, population levels, and stability. Sensitivities may also include scenic resources; rare, threatened, or endangered plants, animals, and habitats; unique or scientifically important botanic features; and other resources of regional or statewide significance.

Based on the preceding factors, allowable use intensities for lands within Salinas River State Beach were determined and are shown on the Allowable Use Intensity Map. Two use intensity categories have been developed: low and moderate. The low intensity zone includes the low coastal dunes between the beach and the unit's eastern boundary. These dunes are vegetated with a diverse assemblage of native plants. The moderate intensity zone is the sandy beach where the environment can withstand heavy use but is subject to ocean wave attack.

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

Existing Land Use and Facilities

Salinas River State Beach is a sandy beach backed by high dunes. The mouth of the Salinas River forms the southern unit boundary with the old river channel meandering along the inland side between the dunes and surrounding agricultural lands. Much of the southern half of this dune system is in private ownership and developed with a condominium complex known as the Monterey Dunes Colony.

Public access to this three-mile stretch of beach is limited to the northern half of the dunes. Visitors arrive from county roads at two locations, one at the northernmost end of this unit at Potrero Road, and the other located one mile downcoast off Molara Road near the entrance to the Monterey Dunes Colony. Recreational use includes typical ocean and beach-related activities. Horseback riding is very popular on the beach and also occurs occasionally along the back dune trails. The mouth of the Salinas River is nearly one mile south of the boardwalk access to the beach, with good potential for birdwatching and fishing in the river at this location. However, no public roads lead from State Highway 1 providing access to the southern portion of the state beach.

Existing facilities are limited at each access location. Potrero Road parking is unpaved and situated at the terminus of this county road and provides easy access and parking for 50 cars in close proximity to the beach. The existing lot is subject to blowing sand and flooding due to a low foredune. Barrier railings restrict vehicle access, preventing entry into the fragile dunes and adjacent wetlands. An easement extends beyond the paved portion of the county road with unrestricted access to private properties, preventing road closure and adequate vehicle control. During heavy use periods, this parking and access road becomes congested with local visitor traffic, horse trailers, and large vehicles. Unrestricted access and random use have increased the need for resource protection, facility maintenance, and visitor control efforts in this area. Facilities include a beach access boardwalk, portable toilets, and trash barrels.

A second parking lot for 100 cars is located at the end of Monterey Dunes Way. This access is from Molera Road, a county road off Highway 1 that serves the state beach, condominium development, and adjacent agricultural lands. The entrance road is gated to limit the hours of use, and vehicle barriers were established to restrict vehicle access into surrounding dunes. Facilities include portable toilets, trash barrels, and a boardwalk for easy access to the beach. No public contact facilities have been developed here.

The high dunes and longer distance from the beach make monitoring of visitor activities by department staff difficult from this parking lot. This seclusion is a visitor attraction in itself. However, the recently constructed boardwalk has improved access conditions and enhanced the availability of the area's natural values and enjoyment of the area for recreational use. This area is now experiencing an increase in beach use and is expected to become more popular as a destination for more family beach activities.

No administrative or maintenance facilities have been developed at Salinas River State Beach. This unit and state beaches to the north are administered by the ranger staff and maintenance personnel from the Monterey District Office and nearby Marina State Beach.

Proposed Natural Preserves

A portion of the dune system located in the northern half of this unit is proposed for natural preserve classification to protect and enhance the outstanding natural values associated with this area. The existing parking lots and areas immediately surrounding these facilities will be excluded from the natural preserve to provide space for future support and visitor services facilities.

The mouth of the Salinas River is an important wildlife area and is also proposed for natural preserve classification. The department will coordinate management efforts with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect this important nesting and feeding habitat and make recommendations to the county to minimize negative impacts of any future flood control activities.

Recreational activities associated with this unit will be limited to the beach and along designated dune trails. Periodic closures during wildlife breeding seasons, or closure of specific dune areas to allow for revegetation, may be necessary to ensure that the environmentally sensitive habitats are protected.

Proposed Land Use and Facilities

Beach and Trail Access

Beach and trail access will continue from existing parking locations. Interpretive, equestrian, and hiking trails will be designated through the dunes with appropriate signing and trail markers. However, in areas of existing or potential trail access through the natural preserve, the primary consideration must be for habitat and resource protection. Equestrian and other user groups will be consulted to help determine the most appropriate trail routes and desired access improvements.

Potrero Road access requires greater vehicle control and improved public contact for information on available visitor services and resource values. Alternatives to the unrestricted access conditions require further planning and coordination between the county, state, and adjacent property owners.

Public access to the mouth of the Salinas River should be considered in any future local planning decisions adjacent to this area within the policy guidelines of the Monterey County Local Coastal Plan.

Parking

Formalize existing parking at Potrero Road to increase vehicle capacity to 100 cars, establish visitor contact, and accommodate trailered vehicles and disabled access requirements.

Additional parking will be developed as an expansion to the existing parking lot off Molera Road at Monterey Dunes Way. Improvements will increase vehicle capacity to a total of 150 cars, including pull-through trailer/RV parking spaces. Provisions will be made for equestrian staging, restrooms, trail access, and exhibit signing in the specific site development plans. Sand stabilization and revegetation will be an important part of any significant parking lot improvements.

This plan recognizes the need for future public access to the southern portion of this state beach. No public road access now exists to this area. If access can be provided as a result of local planning decision in the future, a small parking and turnaround should be developed near the river mouth. This facility would provide trail access and opportunities for fishing and birdwatching at the river mouth. Information and interpretive signing is required to inform visitors of the resource sensitivity of the adjacent natural preserve.

Comfort Stations

Permanent restroom facilities are proposed near each parking lot. Resource sensitivity and future availability of water and sewer connections shall determine facility design and method of disposal. New facilities shall be made accessible to the elderly and disabled persons.

Portable toilets should be provided in the vicinity of any future parking and designated public use areas developed near the Salinas River mouth.

Picnic Areas

A dunes picnic area is proposed near the Monterey Dunes Way/Molera Road parking area at the intersection of the boardwalk and mid-dune trail. Picnic tables and trash barrels will be situated in the present non-vegetated area of the dunes adjacent to the boardwalk and somewhat protected from prevailing winds. Existing trail access will be maintained with added provisions for equestrian use. Areas surrounding picnic sites will be revegetated with native plants to stabilize sand movement and define trail routes and appropriate use areas. Extending the present boardwalk into the proposed picnic area and constructing wooden decks for each picnic site may be necessary to minimize resource damage. Information and interpretive signing will be provided.

Picnic tables will be situated in appropriate locations near major parking lots. Picnic facilities will be monitored and removed if related activities result in adverse impacts to the natural values associated with this area. The sites would be restored to their natural condition.

Trails

Primary beach access will continue on existing boardwalk locations. A dune trail for hiking and equestrian use will be designated to the beach and through the stable dune areas between Potrero Road and Monterey Dunes parking areas. Dune revegetation programs shall be included as part of all trail development to ensure the proper level of dune management and resource

protection. Trail designation will require closure of certain existing routes that randomly cross the backdunes and installation of appropriate signing to inform users of the area's resource sensitivity. Actual trail routes will be determined through coordination between operations, natural resource staff, and equestrian group representatives.

Operations and Maintenance Facilities

The unit operations and maintenance functions are carried out from facilities located at Marina State Beach. The current state ownership at Salinas River State Beach does not include land developable for unit administrative and maintenance facilities. Facilities proposed for this unit will only provide for the necessary visitor contact, park surveillance, and emergency and patrol vehicle access.

Contact Station

A small entry kiosk may be provided at each access location to serve for visitor contact and unit orientation, fee collection, and visitor safety.

Employee Housing

An employee housing site is proposed for this unit on Monterey Dunes Way near the entrance to the Monterey Dunes Colony development. This facility will serve as an employee living area and provide a visible presence for park surveillance and public safety. Site development shall consider visual impacts and the architectural integrity of the area. Special care will be taken to avoid impacting the state listed, endangered, slender flowering gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*) which occurs in this area.

Interpretive Facilities

A free-standing exhibit shelter with interpretive panels will be located at each parking lot near trail access and boardwalk locations. Interpretive signing will be constructed along trails and near the river mouth to explain the resource sensitivity and significance of these areas.

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

Interpretive Period

The department will interpret the flow of history at Salinas River State Beach from geologic times to the present.

Interpretive Themes

Several themes are appropriate for interpretation at Salinas River State Beach. These themes cover the natural history of the beach as it exists today, along with its formation over time and the cultural history of the area. The themes are as follows:

Meeting of the waters
Waves of change, streams of destruction
A bill for every purpose
Building grain-by-grain
Living with the shifting sand
Coastal weather, coastal crops
Nature at its best
Staying safe at the beach
Fluttering jewels
Rebuilding the natural garden
A jouney for survival
Steps of destruction

Expanded Themes

Meeting of the waters: The southern boundary of Salinas River State Beach is the Salinas River. The meeting of fresh with sea water creates a unique environment, called an estuarine area. Organisms that cannot tolerate fresh water are unable to live there, as are those that must have strictly fresh water to survive. The result is a community of animals that can live with both fresh and salt water. The river and ocean boundary is also a popular feeding area for many shorebirds and is therefore subject to use restrictions.

Waves of change, streams of destruction: The sand of Salinas River State Beach comes from the Salinas River. The sediments washed downstream by the river are transported parallel to the shoreline by ocean waves and currents to form up the beach. The same currents and waves also erode the sand during storms and heavy surf, making the beach narrower and steeper. When sand is transported as far north as Moss Landing State Beach, it ends up in the Monterey Submarine Canyon and leaves the sand transport cycle.

A bill for every purpose: The shorebirds that visit Salinas River State Beach and the mouth of the Salinas River itself come to feed, to rest, and to breed. A greater understanding of the kinds of food these birds eat can be gained by observing their bills and where they are feeding. Those with long bills probe deep into the sand for the small creatures who live there. Those

with short bills peck through the windrows of kelp and along the edges of the waves for crustaceans and marine worms. The birds also follow their food as it moves up and downstream in the Salinas River, and up and down the banks with the tides.

Building grain-by-grain: Sand dunes along Monterey Bay have formed over time by the combined forces of wind and waves. The sand deposited on the beaches by the waves is blown inland by the wind until it comes to rest against vegetation or other obstructions. The grains gradually build up to form dunes. Salinas River State Beach's dunes are very easily eroded. Over time, they have suffered from erosion, ocean wave attack, and trails through the vegetation.

Living with the shifting sands: The seemingly barren sand dunes are home to several varieties of plants and animals. The adaptations these organisms have made to the constant wind and lack of moisture makes them unique. Indeed, some of them live nowhere else. An understanding of these endangered organisms will help the visitor to better understand the dunes.

Coastal weather, coastal crops: The cool, often foggy, summers in Monterey County are ideal for growing many vegetables. In the area of Salinas River State Beach, cabbage and artichokes are grown. The Salinas Valley's position as a primary vegetable producer has earned it the nickname of "The Nation's Salad Bowl." The Monterey coast's position in this "Bowl" can be brought out through interpretation of the kinds of crops grown in the fields the visitor passes through enroute to Salinas River State Beach.

Nature at its best: Salinas River State Beach's dune area contains a very large percentage of native vegetation, an anomaly in an area that has so much public use. The predominant foredune grass, sea lyme-grass, is the natural grass once found over much of the dunes around Monterey Bay. The California Natural Areas Coordination Council has identified Salinas River State Beach as an important natural area because of the value of the ecosystems in the unit.

Staying safe at the beach: Salinas River State Beach is a popular recreation beach. Wind surfing, swimming, and other ocean-oriented sports occur here. But, the seemingly quiet waters of the ocean off Salinas River State Beach hide rip currents and undertows that can turn an afternoon at the beach into a tragedy.

Fluttering jewels: The Smith's blue butterfly, a rare and endangered species, is often seen on the Salinas River State Beach dunes. The bright blue wings of the males make them easier to spot than the brown and red-orange wings of the females, but both can be found near coast buckwheat plants. The butterfly's life cycle is closely linked with that of the buckwheat growing on the dunes. The larval butterflies feed on the flower heads, while the adults ingest nectar at the flowers, and use the remainder of the plant for resting, sunning, and mating. Without this plant, the Smith's blue butterfly would soon die out. The strong link between the host buckwheat and the dependent butterfly can serve as an example of the interconnectedness of living organisms in the dunes.

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

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Expanded Themes

Meeting of the waters: The southern boundary of Salinas River State Beach is the Salinas River. The meeting of fresh with sea water creates a unique environment, called an estuarine area. Organisms that cannot tolerate fresh water are unable to live there, as are those that must have strictly fresh water to survive. The result is a community of animals that can live with both fresh and salt water. The river and ocean boundary is also a popular feeding area for many shorebirds and is therefore subject to use restrictions.

Waves of change, streams of destruction: The sand of Salinas River State Beach comes from the Salinas River. The sediments washed downstream by the river are transported parallel to the shoreline by ocean waves and currents to form up the beach. The same currents and waves also erode the sand during storms and heavy surf, making the beach narrower and steeper. When sand is transported as far north as Moss Landing State Beach, it ends up in the Monterey Submarine Canyon and leaves the sand transport cycle.

A bill for every purpose: The shorebirds that visit Salinas River State Beach and the mouth of the Salinas River itself come to feed, to rest, and to breed. A greater understanding of the kinds of food these birds eat can be gained by observing their bills and where they are feeding. Those with long bills probe deep into the sand for the small creatures who live there. Those

Rebuilding the natural garden: Over time, the constant use of the dunes by visitors for recreation has caused erosion, as well as blow outs of sand. Steps are now being taken to correct the damage. Seeds and seedlings of dune vegetation are being planted in barren areas, and foot traffic is restricted to specified areas. These measures, with public cooperation, will soon restore the dunes to their natural beauty.

A journey for survival: Frequently, during the months from December through February, visitors to the beaches around Monterey Bay can see California Gray whales or Blue whales passing by the shore on their journey south to Baja California. This is a journey for survival. The coming of winter storms and icy water effectively deprives the whales of their food sources in the Bering Sea, Arctic Ocean, and Aleutians Island area. Another impetus to the whales' trip to warmer waters is the pending birth of their young. The young whales are born without the all-important layer of fat to insulate them against the cold water, and they need time in the warm southern waters to develop it. After reaching Baja California, the whales rest and eat until March, when they begin the 6,000 mile return to the northern seas. The return trip is usually farther off shore and the whales are not visible from the beaches.

Steps of destruction: One of the most important guidelines to be followed when enjoying the dunes at the state beaches, whether on foot or on horseback, is to stay on the existing trails. Each step off these trails can mean erosion of a sand bank, the death of a young plant, or the loss of a source of food and shelter for the animals that live in the dunes.

Proposed Interpretation

Facilities

There are currently no interpretive facilities at Salinas River State Beach. The lack of buildable land precludes any extensive interpretive structures. Consequently, minimal interpretive facilities such as free-standing exhibit shelters and low-profile vista points are proposed. Possible locations for exhibit shelters are the two parking areas that serve as the access points for the beach and the proposed dune picnic area. The beach access at the Molera Road parking area can also be utilized for interpretation. Interpretation on the boardwalk could include low-profile exhibit panels for visitors' perusal while they are enjoying the view.

Interpretive signing should be installed to explain the significance and fragility of the natural preserves on the northern and southern ends of the beach.

Visitor Activities

Visitor involvement in interpretation at present consists of occasional personal contact with the Visitor Services staff. These contacts will, of course, continue. Casual contacts should be supplemented with guided walks on the beach and in the dunes on the themes outlined above.

Interpretive Associations and Collections

There are no interpretive associations at Salinas River State Beach. No interpretive collections are associated with the unit.

The proposed volunteer equestrian patrol might assist interpretation in the future.

Interpretive Priorities

1. Construct exhibit shelter(s).
2. Develop a series of interpretive panels and a suitable seasonal rotation program for those panels.
3. Develop low-profile panels for vista points on dune boardwalk.
4. Institute a series of guided interpretive walks on the themes listed in this element.

CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

This Concessions Element consists of an evaluation of existing concession activities, the potential for additional visitor services and revenues, and appropriate concession policies and guidelines consistent with the unit's classification and the provisions of all elements of this General Plan.

A concession is a general term for a grant of authority by the department to another party, permitting that party to make specific use of parklands and/or facilities for a specified period of time.

It is the department's policy to enter into concession contracts for provision of products, facilities programs, and management and visitor services which will provide for enhancement of visitor use and enjoyment, as well as visitor safety and convenience. Such concessions should not create added financial burden on the state and, wherever possible, shall either reduce costs or generate revenues that aid in maintaining and expanding the State Park System. In carrying out this policy, the department must adhere to the provisions of the Public Resources Code that forbid commercial exploitation of resources in units of the State Park System, which limits the kinds of improvements and activities that are allowed.

At this time, there are no concessions at Salinas River State Beach due to the existence of adequate commercial development in adjacent communities and the lack of recreational activities that might generate a need for commercial facilities in the unit.

Potential Concession Activities

Salinas River State Beach is close to necessary retail services. Proposed improvements at this state beach, which include parking, restrooms, and trails, may increase the demand on local retailers but will not require the provision of commercial services within the unit. However, special event activities compatible with the unit's environment can be approved by the appropriate unit manager.

Because of the above situation, and because of the lack of available sites for commercial facilities, no new concession facilities are being proposed in this General Plan. It is felt that this approach will encourage private efforts when and where they are needed, in a manner that is still advantageous to the public without adversely affecting park values.

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OPERATIONS ELEMENT

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

OPERATIONS ELEMENT

This element outlines broad goals for the unit operations in view of the other elements within the General Plan, and it also identifies existing or potential operational problems and strategies for solving them.

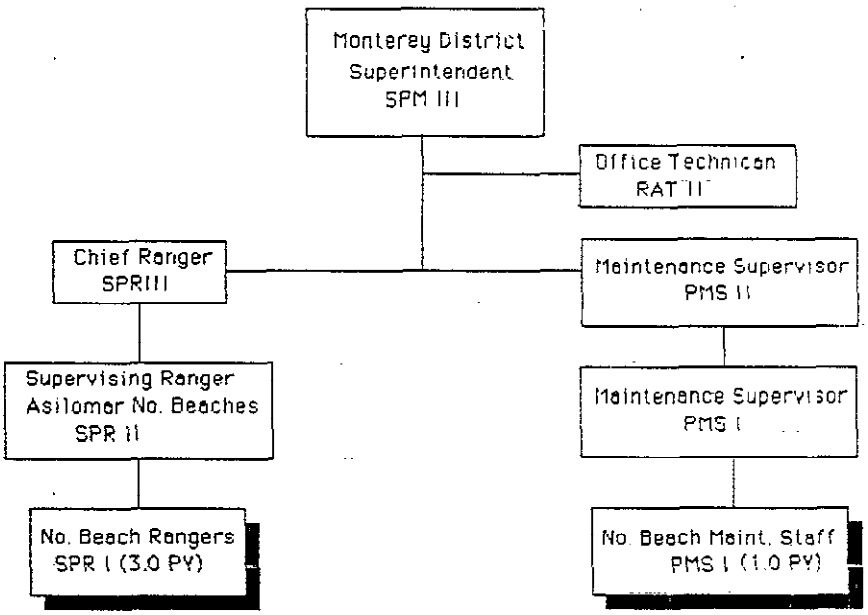
Existing Situation

Operations responsibilities are carried out under the on-site guidance of first line supervisors as directed by a district superintendent. The district reports to the regional director.

At the district level, operations are divided into three functions: administration, maintenance, and visitor services.

The maintenance and operations staff directly responsible for this unit are centered at Marina State Beach.

The organizational structure of the Monterey District staff associated with North Sector Beach units (Monterey State Beach, Marina State Beach, Salinas River State Beach, Moss Landing State Beach, Zmudowski State Beach) is as follows:



The specific areas of focus include law enforcement, visitor safety, maintenance, and resource management.

Law Enforcement

Salinas State Beach, along with Zmudowski State Beach, is an isolated unit on Monterey Bay. It has unpaid access and no staff on regular duty assigned to it exclusively. The remoteness of this unit is an attraction in itself, and more frequent patrol is needed. There is a need for a closer base of operation so that the department can become more visible to the public. This would improve public contact and allow for quicker response to emergency situations.

This unit has the least disturbed dune system and, because of that, requires the greatest surveillance. Because the Petrero Road entrance is adjacent to a local community, a great deal of random activity occurs. Access also is via a county road that cannot be closed. This condition requires a greater participation by the operations staff, both in patrol and maintenance.

The Molera Road entry is behind a substantial dune system which requires the users to move a great distance through the dunes to the beach. This distance makes it very difficult for the park patrol to monitor beach activities. It is anticipated that with the popularity and expansion of this use, monitoring will become more difficult.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows hunting on its property at the downcoast end of Salinas River State Beach. This activity occasionally overlaps into state park property and causes the need for additional patrol.

The mouth of the river is nearly one mile south of the boardwalk access to the beach at Molera Road. This total distance has very limited vehicle access. There is extensive birdwatching potential and good fishing off the river mouth. The rancher behind the Monterey Dunes Colony and the state beach used to allow public access to the river mouth via his agricultural roads. As the popularity of the area and vandalism have increased, he now gates the area. This eliminates vehicle access to that one-mile section of Salinas River State Beach. At this time, however, patrol access is still allowed on the agricultural roads.

July 4th usually attracts heavy crowds during the daytime. Uncontrolled large crowds increase as night comes, causing damage to the dunes with uncontrolled fireworks demonstrations.

Beginning in 1986, the district staff was successful in preventing the large crowds from getting out of control. This required posting staff at the parking lot all day. Their role was to monitor and record use and make personal contact with visitors to inform them about night closure and the prohibition on fireworks. Posting the entrance roads to prohibit parking outside the parking lots prevented excessive large crowds and maintained emergency access. This also assisted in the closure of the beach after dark. Cooperation from the county is necessary for this activity to be successful.

The agricultural lands close to Salinas Beach are extensively sprayed. This may require monitoring in the future with a need for additional patrol and contact for public safety.

Visitor Safety

Visitor safety problems at the unit are related to the following conditions:

1. The unit has no continual contact available.

2. The area has aquatic dangers which are left to the visitor's responsibility.

3. The Salinas River mouth has dangerous periods due to outgoing currents and the changing shoreline shape.

4. The adjacent condominium development brings uninformed visitors to the shoreline and the river and into the proposed preserve areas any time of the day or night.

Maintenance

The maintenance functions of this unit include the typical litter cleanup, garbage collection, and chemical toilet cleanout. However, the isolation of the unit gives rise to a substantial amount of vandalism, both to cars and park property, including signs and fencing. The boardwalks and fencing recently installed on the dunes for dune restoration are expected to become an expensive maintenance item.

It takes a concentrated effort by the operations staff to provide a level of maintenance at the unit that is acceptable to the public, the local community, and the department itself. To assist in this, the district has obtained the services of county court referrals to aid in maintenance on weekends. The program was established by the county for persons convicted of drunk driving. The program requires direct department supervision and continued department coordination with the county. However, the program has substantially improved the visual quality of the entrance and parking area, as well as the beach and dunes. It has also demonstrated a department presence in the unit, which acts as a silent monitor to discourage negative use. Court referrals cannot be depended upon to meet long-term operational needs.

Currently, all chemical toilets in the north county beach units are pumped by department staff with pumping equipment borrowed from other districts. The district is looking into the potential for contracting this service out.

The condominium development contiguous to this unit also increases maintenance because residents have continual access, night and day, to the beach and natural areas.

Resource Management

The protection and stabilization of sand dunes is a sizable program. Initial restoration and stabilization takes approximately three to five years to bring an area to a point of natural equilibrium. However, following that, it requires an ongoing program to contain and revegetate blowouts, remove sand from paved areas, and replace boardwalks and other facilities. Continual monitoring with quick repair of the hot spots and lowering or removal of stabilization devices is part of an annual program.

The unit is a popular equestrian area because of the access and parking areas. With the increased interest in horseback riding on the beach, local stables rent horses and transport them to the unit by trailer. As a result, a larger number of users are uninformed about the safe use of horses, as well as about impacts the horses have on the natural area. This situation has also increased maintenance, operational activities, and costs.

After a heavy storm at Salinas River State Beach, the beach is nearly totally clogged with driftwood. This encourages beach fires by the users which is a concern of the adjacent condominium owners and requires extra surveillance. At present, the Monterey District has no heavy equipment to remove the debris and must rely on hand labor or borrowed equipment from other districts.

General Plan Implementation

The proposals of the General Plan set a direction for improved visitor services and resource protection through improved facilities, public contact, and resource policies. This will require a complement of appropriate operations programs to implement the goals of the plan. It will require an expansion of user contact and ongoing dune maintenance programs in a very dynamic environment.

Closure of some of the existing random trails through the backdunes should ease some of the patrol problems in the future.

The department recognizes equestrian beach use at Salinas River State Beach as a justified enjoyable recreation activity. It recognizes also that proper design, public information, and user cooperation are a key to protecting the natural resources and minimizing maintenance. It is anticipated that cooperative programs within the equestrian community are essential to blending this use with the resources. The results of such an effort should be rewarding to both the department and user groups. Any cooperative programs will require a major involvement by the operations staff to generate and administer equestrian volunteer groups for such things as patrol and user education. It is anticipated that as this unit becomes more popular, these volunteer programs will become more essential to maintaining the desired level of multiple uses.

Implementation of a park-staff horse patrol program will greatly improve resource protection and visitor safety. This will require special identification and training of staff to work with the user groups as well as to patrol. Volunteer horse patrols should be explored and possibly equipped with radios to enable prompt reporting of emergencies and violations.

Currently, the department maintains no-fee access to this unit. However, we anticipate that the demand for beach access will continue to grow and that fees to offset costs of increased services and resource protection may become necessary.

Future staffing and support budgets must consider the fact that units like Salinas River State Beach need extensive sand removal, requiring a specialized type of equipment. At this time, the Monterey District Office does not have this equipment. Future operations plans will likely require quick access to such equipment because the public demand for access cannot tolerate lengthy closures.

Because of the remoteness of this beach, radio equipment would be a positive addition to maintenance crews serving the area.

The County of Monterey opens the Salinas River mouth usually on an annual basis to prevent flooding of farmlands behind this area. Our resource evaluation discusses the need for department coordination with the county for protection of the natural resources. This will take added involvement by the operations staff for increasing coordination, preplanning, and monitoring.

As stated earlier, vehicle patrols enter through the dunes and near the Salinas River across private property. Continued dune access will require monitoring and evaluation by the operations staff to determine access needs and resource protection.

Volunteer Program

Several ideas are possible for volunteer involvement:

-- Volunteer equestrian patrol groups to provide an interpretive function as well as to monitor equestrian use. This activity would also overlap with information dissemination to any users on the beach.

-- The Point Reyes Observatory carries on research programs at this unit, doing weekly surveys of the various bird activities that take place on the beach and dunes. This is a potential source of volunteer interpretation.

-- The Native Plant Society anticipates volunteering through a cooperative effort with the department for seed collection and interpretation of these dunes.

-- The district has a school outreach program which goes to the schools to inform and to invite school groups to come to the park.

-- In the future, there may be the desire to develop a cooperative association for additional interpretation and assistance in this program.

-- There has also been an expression of interest in volunteer activities by various surfing groups.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH GENERAL PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

Preface

The General Plan, with all its elements, constitutes an environmental impact report (EIR) as required by state law (Public Resources Code Sections 5002.2 and 21000 et seq.). The Environmental Impact Element will comprise "adequate" discussion in accordance with the seven topics usually discussed in an EIR.

When a point has been adequately discussed in another part of the General Plan, it is covered in this element by a reference to that discussion, to avoid redundancy.

Summary

Following are the major environmental effects that will result from implementation of this project, and major mitigation measures that will reduce or eliminate those environmental effects.

In general, the proposed project will have beneficial effects upon the resources and for the public. The two proposed preserves, the marked interpretive trails and existing boardwalks, and greater surveillance by DPR personnel, all will give greater protection to the sand dunes and biota, including several threatened and rare and endangered species. Onshore, these species include Monterey paintbrush, slender flowered gilia, and possibly the Smith's blue butterfly and its host plant, the coast buckwheat (which is not threatened at present). Offshore, the species of concern include the Guadalupe fur seal and southern sea otter.

The impacts caused by improved and increased parking facilities will be beneficial. The problems of possible access from nearby private property will remain.

Threats to the beach from erosion are a regional and statewide problem and will require research and action by several agencies.

Project Description

The Resource Element, the Land Use and Facilities Element, and to a lesser degree the other elements in this plan propose how the unit will be used, how resources will be protected, and what facilities will be constructed.

Description of the Environmental Setting

Please refer to the Resource Element in particular for a description of the natural and cultural environment of this state beach. The Land Use and Facilities Element and, to a lesser degree, other elements also describe the existing natural environment and human influences on the environment.

In addition to these descriptions of the local environmental setting, the following has been added.

Air Quality

Air quality along the Monterey Bay coast is good because of the influx of clean air off the Pacific Ocean. Records of the Salinas II Monitoring Station for 1985 indicate that gaseous and particulate pollutants were below state and national standards during that year. Records at other Central Coast monitoring stations substantiate these findings.

Circulation

Road access to Salinas River State Beach is by county roads -- Potrero Road to the north end of the beach and Molera Road and Monterey Dunes Road to the central part of the beach. Both Potrero and Molera Roads connect to State Highway 1 (Cabrillo Highway). Potrero Road terminates at an improved 50-space parking lot about 1/2 mile from Highway 1. The other parking lot (100 cars) which is one mile south along the three miles of state beach is off of Monterey Dunes Road; it is approximately 1-1/2 miles from Highway 1. Molera Road has an average daily count of 15,000 vehicles. These roads are used by people living in the Monterey Dunes Colony adjacent to Salinas River State Beach; by field workers, produce workers, and trucks hauling produce; and as an alternate route around Castroville.

Public Services

There are no utilities connected to this beach. Restrooms are portable, and are pumped out by maintenance personnel.

Fire and rescue protection are handled by department staff, and are also provided by the North County Fire District in Castroville and the Monterey County Sheriff's Department. The Castroville Station has fire engines, a rescue unit, and other equipment. Response time would be 10-20 minutes, depending on traffic, location, and other circumstances.

Typical problems to which the rescue unit and sheriff have responded are capsized boats, accidents, and visitor problems, such as fights and drunkenness.

Hospitals in the area are Watsonville Community Hospital in Watsonville, Natividad Medical Center and Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital in Salinas, Fort Ord Hospital for military personnel, and Community Hospital between Monterey and Carmel on the Monterey Peninsula.

The Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

Most of the proposals as described in the Land Use and Facilities Element and the Resource Element will ameliorate existing adverse conditions at the state beach. Following are listed several possible significant effects to the environment that exist or may be caused by the project, with a discussion of each.

Soils and Geology: Proposed expansion of the existing parking lots and other construction of facilities and trails in the dune area would denude and disturb some sandy soil.

Sand dune destabilization could blow sand, causing sand dunes to move into nearby wetland areas, and roads. Sand dunes also contain many native plant and wildlife species. (See Resource Element.)

Energy: Construction equipment used for the project will use energy. This is a short-term effect. Long-term energy use includes beach maintenance, emergency and patrol vehicles, and the use of cars by the public to reach their destinations.

Vegetation and Wildlife: Some native vegetation and wildlife may be inadvertently affected by proposed project construction and, intentionally or unintentionally, by the public. Castelleja latifolia (Monterey paintbrush), a rare plant listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), occurs in the foredune community at Salinas River State Beach. The state listed, endangered, Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria (slender flowered gilia) occurs on the rear dunes in the southern portion of the unit. The federally listed, endangered, Smith's blue butterfly exists in this unit; its host plant, the coast buckwheat, is widespread here. The black legless lizard, a DFG species of special concern, occurs in this unit.

The state-listed (threatened) Guadalupe fur seal may occasionally forage offshore, and the federally listed (threatened) southern sea otter may be observed migrating between kelp beds.

There is a possibility that the public may disturb plants and wildlife in this unit.

Esthetics: Some of the existing facilities (parking lot, comfort station, and trash receptacles) are not very attractive. The proposed project will improve esthetics, as well as other conditions. This will be discussed further under Mitigation Measures.

Traffic Circulation: Enlarged and refurbished parking lots, improved surveillance by state personnel, and other amenities may increase visitor attendance at the unit, putting a strain on county roads. Entrance stations, if included, may discourage some people from using the beach. If a fee is collected by personnel in the entrance station and there is an increase in surveillance, the end result may be about the same number of vehicles as presently, but there may be a change in visitor types. The unrestricted access to private lands at the terminus of Potrero Road poses operating problems and could affect sensitive areas of the state beach, since visitors can park their cars on those lands and walk in at any time.

During peak use periods, there may be times when the supply of parking spaces will be inadequate for the number of people wanting to use the state beach. This may cause visitors to park along the county road, leading to indecision, frustration, and traffic congestion.

The Monterey Dunes Colony has easy access to the beach at all times. This could present a problem, especially in sensitive natural preserves.

Recreation Safety: Certain hazards exist for the unwary recreationist. These include ocean or surf hazards such as riptides, high surf, tides, and unexpected high waves. Winter storms and rare tsunami conditions are especially dangerous.

Mitigation Measures

Soils and Geology: The Resource Element describes how revegetation will help stabilize the dunes. Areas that have been denuded from past use and project development will be replanted with native vegetation.

Trails for equestrians and recreationists will be signed and marked. Additional boardwalks will help protect the dunes and make it easier for the public to reach the beach.

Sand will be removed from the parking lot and roadway and replaced in the dunes or on the beach.

Beach erosion is a regional and statewide problem. Our department will work with the Corps of Engineers and other agencies in finding long-range solutions (see Resource Element policies). Private and state property may be threatened by beach erosion in the future. The department would like to protect all its three miles of shoreline without having to resort to the use of structures (see Resource Element).

Energy: Use of construction machinery will be minimized in order to conserve energy.

Vegetation and Wildlife: Resource policies for plants and animals as presented in the Resource Element will be followed. Site specific plant surveys will be made prior to development of trails and facilities. Based on these site specific surveys, facilities and trails will be sited so that all sensitive resources are avoided.

The project proposes a 72-acre area near the Salinas River mouth for a natural preserve, and a 130-acre Salinas River Dunes Natural Preserve in the north end of the beach between the Monterey Dunes Colony and the north boundary. These will be important in protecting one of the best natural dune areas along Monterey Bay, and in protecting the previously mentioned plant species -- Monterey paintbrush, slender flowered gilia, and the coast buckwheat which is host to the endangered Smith's blue butterfly. The Salinas River Mouth Natural Preserve will also protect nesting habitat for the snowy plover. The more common species of native plants and animals should be protected and encouraged as well.

The boardwalks (proposed and existing) and marked trail through the dunes will help protect dune vegetation and wildlife, as well as preventing sand erosion. Interpretive displays will also educate the public and make them more aware of the biota of this state beach.

Esthetics: The proposed project will improve the esthetics. The new entrances and parking areas will improve the appearance of the unit. Additional personnel stationed closer to the north county unit will help control vandalism and litter. The dunes will become more attractive as denuded areas become revegetated with native species. The end result will be a more attractive, safer, and cleaner area for visitors to this State Park System unit.

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Traffic: Newly enlarged and paved parking lots, new entrances and turn-around areas, all will benefit the state beach. The county will need to be consulted on how to handle vehicles during periods when the beach parking lots reach capacity. A contemplated parking area near the south end of the beach may provide additional opportunities for visitor access. This is now only a long-range possibility, as only private roads are in that location at present. If it becomes a reality, it will be controlled in order to protect the resources of the state beach.

More surveillance of the unit by DPR staff patrols will assist in preventing unauthorized use of the state beach and help to protect its resources.

Beach Safety: Unit personnel, with backup help from the county, will help visitors who are in difficulty because of injuries, etc. Signs warning visitors about surf conditions and no lifeguard on duty will be prominently displayed.

Interpretive displays and unit personnel will assist with information to the public.

Any Significant Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided if the Proposal Is Implemented

Most environmental problems can be effectively mitigated, as described in this plan. One that cannot be mitigated is the limited parking which may result in traffic problems on peak use days. This condition would be infrequent and is not considered significant.

Alternatives to the Proposed Project

The preferred alternative is described in this plan. None of the alternatives considered differ significantly from the proposed plan.

The No Project alternative was also assessed. All of the existing problems described in the Resource Element would probably be exacerbated by this alternative.

The Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of the Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

The proposed short-term uses of the area will be similar to the present uses. The proposed project should be a long-term solution to the needs of the public for parking, equestrian trails, beach access, improved maintenance, and visitor protection. In addition, the natural resources will be better protected.

Any Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Involved if the Proposed Project Should Be Implemented

There would be commitment of nonrenewable resources, such as oil, gasoline, and gravel, to construct roads, parking areas, and other facilities.

The Growth-Inducing Impacts of the Proposed Action

This project will not increase human population in the area. The number of parking spaces being proposed is about the same as the number of cars that now park in the parking lot along the entrance road on a weekend day.

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Comments and Responses
General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report
Monterey Bay State Beaches in Monterey County
SCH #86011401

Review copies were provided to the following on or subsequent to May 19, 1987. The review period ended July 3, 1987.

State Clearinghouse (10 copies)
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
The Honorable Henry J. Mello, Member of the Senate
The Honorable Sam Farr, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, House of Representatives
Honorable Karin Strasser Kauffman, Chairman, Monterey Co. Board of Supervisors
California Coastal Conservancy, Peter Grenell
California Highway Patrol, J. R. Munson
California Coastal Commission, Edward Brown
Monterey Regional Park District, Board of Directors.
Monterey County Planning Director, Salinas
Monterey North County Fire District, Mark Perira, Castroville
Monterey County Sheriff, Salinas
Monterey County Park and Recreation Director, Richard Brandan, Salinas
Monterey, Fred Cohn, City Manager
Monterey, Manager, City Planning
Seaside, City Manager
Seaside, Ernest Franco, City Planning and Inspection
Marina, City Manager
Marina, Recreation and Park Commission
Marina, Planning Director
Marina, City Water District, Manager
Moss Landing Harbor District, Manager
Moss Landing Marine Lab, Gary Greene
Sand City, Planning Department, Peter Chamberlain
Pacific Grove, Natural History Museum, Vern Yadon
Santa Cruz, Bill Ferral, Resource Planning and Management
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco, Tom Kendall
U. S. Army, Fort Ord, Environmental Office Director
U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Debora Waxer
U. S. Coast Guard, Monterey, Nick Casara CWO 4
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species, Sacramento
Sierra Club State Park System Task Force, Robert Mark, Palo Alto
Sierra Club State Park System Task Force, Murray Rosenthal, Los Angeles
Sierra Club Local Task Force, Carl Larson, Monterey
Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Gary Page, Stinson Beach
California Native Plant Society, Bruce Cowan, Pacific Grove
Pacific Gas and Electric Co., Wayne Yamagina, Salinas
Marina Chamber of Commerce
Elkhorn Slough (NES), Mark Silberstein, Watsonville
Kitty Hawk Sports, James Johns, Marina

Monterey Dunes Colony, Castroville
Sea Mist Farms, Castroville
California Land Management, Palo Alto
Lone Star Industries, Pleasonton
Monterey County Horseman's Association, Castroville
Northern California Morgan Horse Assn., Karin Foy, Livermore
California State Horse Assn, et al., M. A. Miller-Dowdy, Watsonville
North County Trails Committee, Watsonville
Mary Ann Mathews, Carmel Valley
Tom Gillott, Salinas
Santa Cruz Horse Association, Susan Herzberg, Santa Cruz
David Shonman, Pacific Grove
Lee Holthausen, Watsonville
Watsonville Saddlites, Anna Clary, Watsonville
San Martin Horseman's Association, Sheri & Dave Elliot, San Martin
California Dressage Society, Jane Escola, Gilroy
Henry Coe-Pine Ridge Association, Sally Ryser, Morgan Hill
Summit Riders Horsemen's Association, Anne Plucy, Los Gatos
Mission Trails Appaloosa Association, Morgan Hill
Northern California Morgan Horse Association, Margie Barrett, San Martin
Equestrian Trails, Inc., Cathy Conway, Castroville
Horse Heaven, Patricia Sanaran, Aptos
Larkin Valley Horsemen's Association, Watsonville
Natividad 4-H Horse, Bill Moe, Salinas
Sugar Loaf Farm, J. C. Frommhagen, Soquel
American Vaulting Assoc., Soquel
Santa Cruz County Pony Club, Watsonville
Cienega Valley Horseman's Assoc., San Juan Bautista
Equestrian Trails, Inc., Vic Farr, Carmel Valley
Fort Ord Riding Group, Fort Ord
American Morgan Horse Association, D. Dawson, Gilroy
Heritage Trails Association, Soquel
Peruvian Paso Association, Aromas
Año Nuevo Volunteer Horse Patrol, Watsonville
Westwind Equestrian Center, Freedom
4-H Horse Leader, G. R. Beauchaine, Salinas
Carmel Valley Trails Association, Carmel Valley
R. Cali & Bro. Feed, Santa Cruz
El Rancho Escondido Arena, C. "Sam" Samples, Salinas
Dianne Harrington, San Jose
Northern California Junior Rodeo Association, Terry Andrade, Hayward
Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association, San Jose
Full House Farm Newsletter, Los Altos

A notice announcing location of copies of documents for public review was published in the following newspapers:

Monterey Peninsula Herald
Salinas Californian

Documents were available at the following locations for public review:

Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Central Coast Region Headquarters
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940

Harrison Memorial Library
Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Street
Carmel, CA 93922

Marina Branch Library
371 Carmel Avenue
Marina, CA 93933

Seaside Branch Library
550 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

Pacific Grove Library
Central and Fountain Avenues
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Monterey City Library
625 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Monterey County Library
Castroville Branch
11266 Merritt
Castroville, CA 95012

Main Library, Salinas
John Steinbeck Library
110 West San Luis Street
Salinas, CA 93901

Comments were received from the following local, State and Federal agencies and private organizations. No private individuals commented.

Federal Agencies

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
U. S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

State Agencies

California Coastal Commission
California Department of Transportation, District 5
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region

Local Agencies

Monterey County Planning Department
City of Monterey, City Manager
City of Marina, City Manager

Private Organizations

Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Comments and Responses to Comments

Following are the comments received. Each comment has been given a number and the response to that comment has the same number.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
211 MAIN STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105 - 1905

June 15, 1987

Environmental Branch

To: Mr. James M. Doyle
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

Subject: General Plan and DEIR Monterey State Beaches in Monterey County

Your request for comments from this office was received on 21 May 1987 by your letter dated 19 May 1987.

The proposed construction project may require Department of the Army Authorization under Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 and/or under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. A copy of our pamphlet "U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit Program, A Guide for Applicants" is enclosed. For additional information please contact our Regulatory Functions Branch at 415-974-0418.

1 - Any impacts on wetlands, threatened or endangered species, other valuable fish and wildlife resources, or on cultural resources are among the important environmental considerations for all Corps permit applicants. Other areas of environmental concern specific to this project are: We encourage the proposed coordination with the Corps on erosion monitoring.

Questions concerning our AB 884 review can be referred to the undersigned at 415-974-0443. Thank you for including us in your review process.

Roderick A. Chisholm, II
Environmental Branch
Planning/Engineering Division

Enclosure

7-3824

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

SACRAMENTO ENDANGERED SPECIES OFFICE
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1823
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

JUN 1 9 1987

In Reply Refer To:
JAB/1-1-87-TA-471

Mr. James M. Doyle
Environmental Review Section
California Department of Parks
and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 942296-0001

Subject: Preliminary General Plans for Five State Beaches along the Shore of Monterey Bay, Monterey County, California

Dear Mr. Doyle:

In response to your letter of May 19, 1987, we are providing comments on the preliminary general plans for five State Beaches found along the southeastern shore of Monterey Bay in Monterey County. The beaches from north to south are Zmudowski, Moss Landing, Salinas River, Marina, and Monterey.

We generally concur with the resource management policies contained in these plans, especially those relating to the restoration of native flora and the removal or suppression of exotic plants. Moreover, we agree that thorough and systematic surveys for the "rare and endangered" flora should be completed prior to any activities potentially affecting candidate plants. We urge you to incorporate into these plans similar policies for the protection of rare and endangered animal species. If your Department has comparable policies for conserving rare and endangered fauna, they are not stated in the preliminary general plans.

2 —

Two rare or endangered animal species that occur within State Beaches along the Monterey Bay shoreline are the Smith's blue butterfly and black legless lizard. The Smith's blue butterfly, a federally-listed endangered species, occurs at Marina and Salinas River State Beaches and may occur at Monterey State Beach. The black legless lizard (Anniella pulchra nigra), a Category 2 candidate species, is known to occur at Marina and Monterey State Beaches. The preliminary general plans address

I-389

many of the issues related to protecting the Smith's blue butterfly and its habitat. However, they do not adequately consider the needs of the black legless lizard, or accurately describe its distribution within State Beaches along the Monterey Bay shoreline.

2 cont. The black legless lizard has a limited historic range that has been subject to habitat fragmentation and loss from a variety of developments and introduction of exotic "weedy" vegetation such as iceplant. Legless lizards with intermediate characteristics between the black legless lizard and more common silvery legless lizard (A. p. pulchra) have been recorded from Salinas River and Zmudowski State Beaches. Although the black legless lizard does not enjoy the legal protection afforded by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, we recommend that your agency develop and implement policies that perpetuate this fossorial species and its associated habitat. A copy of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inventory report, providing specific locality records for the State Beaches along the Monterey Bay shoreline, is enclosed to assist your environmental planning process.

3 Some of the proposed land uses and facilities discussed in the five plans seem to conflict with the resource management policies mentioned above. For example, visitor use likely will increase at all five beaches as a result of the proposed addition, expansion, or redesign of parking lots to accommodate additional cars and visitors. Other new facilities (i.e., comfort stations, picnic areas) also encourage additional visitor use. Aside from the apparent conflict generally with resource management policies, the intensive use of these five State beaches likely will increase the "people problems" in the dunes, as evidenced by the need to close trails at Moss Landing and Zmudowski, and restrict foot travel to designated routes.

4 Another similar contradiction in the preliminary general plan for Marina State Beach is the designation of a hang glider use area within the proposed "natural preserve". Although we support preserve designation to provide needed protection for the candidate plants [Menzies' wallflower (Erysimum menziesii) and slender-flowered gilia (Gilia tenuiflora subsp. arenaria)] and federally-listed endangered Smith's blue butterfly (Euphilotes enoptes smithi), the proposed "natural preserve" evidently will permit rather intensive use of the northern dune area at Marina State Beach. Heavy recreational use within this area may result in the "incidental take" of the butterfly. If such "take" is likely, a permit to "take" the butterfly must be obtained pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. Development of a conservation plan, a necessary component of a Section 10(a) permit application process, must detail the impacts of the proposed taking on the butterfly. Moreover, the

5

conservation plan should specify the mitigation measures the permit applicant (e.g., Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Marina) will undertake and funding mechanisms made available to implement such mitigation, and alternatives to the proposed project that were considered and the reasons why these alternatives were not implemented by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

5 cont. Currently, the Marina Coastal Zone Planning Task Force (Task Force) of the City of Marina is developing a conservation plan to ultimately accompany a Section 10(a) permit application. The permit, if granted, would allow for the "incidental take" of Smith's blue butterfly within identified portions of the Marina Dunes largely to the north of Marina State Beach. Although the Marina State Beach is represented on the Task Force, "incidental take" relating to ongoing or proposed activities at the State beach has not been considered as part of this conservation plan and permit application. Perhaps, the Department of Parks and Recreation would like to include activities on their lands potentially affecting "take" by expanding the scope of this process to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Similar conflicts may occur at Salinas River State Beach if development activities or intensive human uses are allowed in areas where the Smith's blue butterfly occurs. Questions relating to these comments should be addressed to either Jim Bartel or Ed Lorentzen at 916/978-4866. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these plans.

Sincerely,

Gail C. Kobetich

Gail C. Kobetich
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: David Shonman, City of Marina, Marina Coastal Zone Planning Task Force, 211 Hillcrest Avenue, Marina, CA 93933
Chief, Endangered Species, Portland, OR (AFWE-SE)
Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Sacramento, CA (ES-S)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

July 3, 1987

James M. Doyle
CA Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Subject: General Plans for Monterey Bay State Beaches
SCH# 86011401

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to selected state agencies for review. The review period is closed and the comments of the individual agency(ies) is(are) enclosed. Also, on the enclosed Notice of Completion, the Clearinghouse has checked which agencies have commented. Please review the Notice of Completion to ensure that your comment package is complete. If the package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Your eight-digit State Clearinghouse number should be used so that we may reply promptly.

Please note that recent legislation requires that a responsible agency or other public agency shall only make substantive comments on a project which are within the area of the agency's expertise or which relate to activities which that agency must carry out or approve. (AB 2583, Ch. 1514, Stats. 1984.)

These comments are forwarded for your use in preparing your final EIR. If you need more information or clarification, we suggest you contact the commenting agency at your earliest convenience.

Please contact Norma Wood at 916/445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

David C. Nunenkamp
Chief
Office of Permit Assistance

cc: Resources Agency

Enclosures

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7-4153

STATE OF CALIFORNIA GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT
701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 310
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(408) 426-7390

June 23, 1987

James Doyle
California Department
of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Subject: Marina State Beach Preliminary General Plan and Monterey State Beach Preliminary General Plan; State Clearinghouse Notice of Completion 86011401

Dear Mr. Doyle:

We have reviewed referenced plans and have the following comments:

Marina State Beach

We support the State Park proposal to designate the major part of the dune area at Marina State Beach as a Natural Preserve to protect and perpetuate the resource values of the park. Since federally and state listed endangered species have been located in the dunes and since the dunes ecosystem itself is a fragile and easily disrupted habitat, Coastal Act policy 30240 would apply to the area. This policy protects environmentally sensitive habitat against disruption and allows only uses dependent on resources within the area, and in areas adjacent to sensitive habitat areas, development is to be sited and designed to prevent degradation and to be compatible with the continuance of such habitat areas.

There appear to be some discrepancies between the area identified as a proposed Natural Preserve and the kinds of uses considered appropriate (Allowable Use Intensity Map) and the the Land Use Map designations. The following points should be considered in your planning:

6 (1) In addition to the hang glide area shown at the main parking lot, the Land Use Map shows an indentation into the area of the Natural Preserve and indicates the area to be used for hang gliding. This would appear to conflict with the Category II "Low" use intensity of the Allowable Use Intensity Map which indicates that hiking and picnicking in designated areas are the only appropriate uses in this category. If your agency determines that this area is not category II, it should justify the change in

7-399

6 cont. designation and should provide for minimizing disruption of the dune, e.g., providing boardwalks and platforms for the recreationalists to reduce destruction of the plant life that anchors the dune. There is insufficient discussion in the text as to the development of the hang glide facilities to fully understand what is being proposed.

7 (2) Regarding the hiking and picnicking designations the areas indicated for picnicking on the Land Use Map are appropriately located. However, in the area adjacent to Lake Court previous field surveys had indicated a significant back dune habitat. There may be sections of this area that should be preserved.

8 (3) Regarding hiking trails in the preserve, the use of boardwalks is recommended. Boardwalks are shown at either end of the reserve but it appears that trails will then continue into the dunes. The existing boardwalk greatly facilitates access and discourages random walking over the dunes. We suggest additional boardwalks and that unguided walks be restricted to boardwalks to protect the restoration and preservation program being undertaken by your department.

9 (4) We also suggest that in addition to the excellent policies provided on shoreline erosion and protective structures that the General Plan's Bluff Setback Policy correlate development setback with erosion rate and life span of project, that is, identify a target erosion time span (e.g. 100 year erosion setback) that must be met for new permanent development.

<u>Monterey State Beach - Sand Dunes Drive area</u>

10 (1) No allowable use intensity map was included as the text indicated (p.20). The two allowable uses proposed, (a) high use - highly disturbed sand dunes and (b) moderate use - sandy beach, do not appear appropriate to the higher dune area coterminous with the adjacent Ponderosa property. The federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly has been surveyed in this area. Though the Land Use Map proposes restoration of this area, it is not clear that there is a long term commitment to manage this area for habitat protection.

11 (2) En route camping would provide for a critical public need consistent with the Coastal Act if appropriate protection of dune habitat is provided.

12 (3) To the degree feasible under General Plan procedural regulations we would recommend clarification of the status of the Seaside and Sand City parcels and additional information on future plans for these and other properties for potential inclusion in the Monterey State Park units.

With consideration of the above comments these State Park General Plans provide excellent public recreational opportunities while protecting the natural resources that make the areas desireable for recreational use. If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance, please call.

Sincerely,

Joy Chase
Coastal Planner

cc: Mary Gunter
Norma Wood, OPR Clearinghouse
1913A

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. BOX 8114
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93403-8114
Telephone: (805) 549-3111
TDD (805) 549-3259

Date: June 29, 1987

Mr. James M. Doyle
Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 942896-0001

File: MON-001-var.
G.P. for Mon. Bay
State Beaches
SCH#: 86011401

Subject: Intergovernmental Review

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Caltrans District 5 staff has reviewed the above-referenced document. The following comments were generated as a result of the review:

13 Caltrans has no particular concerns other than the fact that expanded and improved parking at the various state beaches will cause incremental increases in traffic turning moves on Route 1. As you are no doubt aware, Route 1 already operates at a very low level of service (F). Additional traffic just exacerbates the existing problems.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 549-3139.

A. C. Carlton
District 5
Intergovernmental Review Coordinator

cc: Terry Roberts, State Clearinghouse
JMA,VLN,CSW

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State of California — The Resources Agency of Califo

Memorandum

To : State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date: June 11, 1987

From : William R. Leonard, Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region—1122 Laurel Lane
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Subject: MONTEREY STATE BEACHES - PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN REVIEW

14 — We reviewed preliminary general plans for California State Beaches located in Monterey County (Zmindowski, Moss Landing, Salinas River, Marina, and Monterey). At each facility we note there is discussion of restroom facilities "proposed", but no discussion of where the wastewater goes. Restroom facilities should be sewered wherever sewers are available. If restrooms are constructed using on-site septic tank-leachfield systems, they should be built in accordance with specifications in the Board's Resolution No. 83-12 and applicable county criteria.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM R. LEONARD
Executive Officer

JFC/se

stclearhs.ltr2

MONTEREY COUNTY

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

(408) 422-9018 - P.O. BOX 1208 - SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93902

ROBERT SLIMMON, JR.
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

July 1, 1987

Mr. James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-001

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The Department has reviewed the preliminary General Plans for the following State Beaches located in the unincorporated areas of northern Monterey County: Zmudowski, Moss Landing and Salinas River. These documents were analysed with respect to the proposed land uses and facilties planned for each park unit and the certified North County Land Use Plan (LUP) of Monterey County's Local Coastal Program. The LUP is the controlling land use document upon which all State Park General Plans and proposed projects will be evaluated for consistency. Some of the detail comments which follow later address consistency issues. Resolvement of issues will be facilitated through County and State Coastal Commission consideration of the General Plan Program as an amendment to the certified LUP.

The LUP contains a Public Access Component and provides policy for the protection of access opportunities, management plans and programs, priorities for improvements and management for access and recreational facilities, trails, public safety, habitat and resource protection, visual, land use compatibility, parking and facilities and signs and maps. The LUP identifies the Department of Parks and Recreation as the responsible agency for the development of access and recreational facilities for these three State Park units.

In general, we find the preliminary General Plans consistent with the Public Access Component contained in the LUP. However, we note an absence of reference to this controlling land use document and policies (with the exception of its citation as a selected reference) in any of the three plans. The coastal planning effort in Monterey County has, and continues to be a mutual effort among property owners, special interest groups and local, state and federal agencies. The Department of Parks and

Recreation contributed substantial background information to support various aspects of the LUP during its preparation and provided valuable input to assure your management concerns and objectives were included. Planning Department staff have met several times with your staff and have attended public hearings in this State Beach General Plan Program. We are therefore concerned that the preliminary General Plans contain no planning history or identification of the planning process in which this present Program evolved. We would recommend an addition section on the local planning effort and development of the LUP consistent with the Coastal Act of 1976; the Coastal Commission planning effort; as well as State Parks and Recreation General Plan Program and how that Program is part of the comprehensive coastal planning process. At present, the documents stand alone and are not reflective of the rich planning process which has occurred. The General Plan Program needs to be placed into the context of the entire coastal planning process. The following are specific comments to each of the three park units previously identified:

15

Zmudowski

1. p.2 Key Recommendations

16

- o Permanent restrooms requiring public sewer and water are not feasible due to lack of public services to the site. Expansion of such public utilities to this site is also not feasible. Permanent restrooms will require on-site water and septic systems.

17

2.
- o Equestrian use is not presently provided for in the LUP.

18

3.
- o Dune management plans will require County and State Coastal Commission review and approval.

19

4.
- o Signing should also include hazardous or restricted use warnings; if appropriate.

20

5.
- o Operation and maintenance facilities and overnight camping will require County and State Coastal Commission approval.

21

6. p.5 Unit Description, 2nd paragragh
- o This unit is bordered on the north by the Pajaro River, the east by agricultural fields...

7. p.12 Historic Background, 5th paragraph, 3rd line

22 — o "...in 1972, and a 20-acre use permit from the State Lands Commission." Please clarify, explain and/or correct.

8. p.14 Resources Management Policies

23 — o Resource Management in the State Park System in the Coastal Zone is governed by laws contained in the Public Resources Code and the California Administrative Code. Additional state agencies, such as the Coastal Commission, State Land Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Boating and Waterways all have laws and regulations for resource management that must be considered in the development of State Park General Plans along the coast.

9. p.16 Shoreline Protective Devices

24 — o Application of this policy assumes some level of facility (i.e. structure, etc.) exists at Zmudowski. Since no facility exists warranting structural protection, this section can be deleted.

10. p.22 Parking

25 — o Expanded parking will require County review and approval.

11. p.22 Comfort Station

26 — o See Comment #1

12. p.22 Interpretive Facilities

o Signage will require County review and approval consistent with LUP Policy 6.4.J.

27 — 13. p.22 Operations and Maintenance

o Any facilities will require County review and approval.

14. p.23 Employee Housing

o Any housing or equipment storage will require County review and approval

15. p.27 Proposed Interpretation

28 - o If the second sentence under "Facilities" is correct "...the lack of buildable land precludes any extensive interpretive structures," How can improvements such as: Employee housing, operations and maintenance facilities and parking be proposed in this General Plan?

16. p.33 General Plan Implementation

29 - o Upon Parks and Recreation Commission approval of the General Plan, the Department of Parks and Recreation should submit an amendment application to the LUP for County and State Coastal Commission consideration.

17. Mapping

o Land Use and Facilities and Allowable Use Intensity Maps should be amended into the LUP.

18. p.35 EIR

30 - o Air Quality. The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution District is presently non-attainment for ozone.

MOSS LANDING

19. p.12 Recreation Resources

31 - o Substantial public testimony regarding the use of Moss Landing State Beach by a significant number of surfers was given at the May 28, 1986 public hearing in Marina. This section should include a discussion of this highly popular form of recreation at Moss Landing.

20. p.14 Resource Management Policies

o See Comment #8.

21. p.15 Shoreline Protective Devices

32 - o See Comment #9 as it relates to Moss Landing State Beach

22. p.23 Existing Land Use and Facilities, 2nd para.

33

- Add Monterey County, State Coastal Conservancy, State Lands Commission, Department of Boating and Waterways and the Coastal Commission to the list of responsible agencies having a role in land and water management around Moss Landing State Beach.

23. p.35 General Plan Implementation

34

- See Comment #16
- See Comment #22 for agencies involved in land and water management responsibilities

35

24. Mapping, see comment #17 regarding Land Use and Use Intensity Maps

25. p.37 EIR

36

- Air Quality, see comment #18

SALINAS RIVER

26. p.11 Animal Life

37

- The City of Marina and State Coastal Conservancy have funded a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Smith's blue butterfly consistent with the Engangered Species Act. The study area includes the coastal dunes south of Salinas River Wildlife Management Area to Marina State Beach. Information regarding rare and endangered plants and animals developed from the HCP should be included in this document.

27. p.19 Shoreline Protective Devices

38

- See comment #9 as it relates to Salinas River State Beach

28. p.21 Rare and Endangered Plants

39

- The previously cited HCP (in preparation) has located Chorizanthe pungens Benth. Var. pungens and Erysimum Menziesii in the study area to the south. It is therefore probable these species also occur at Salinas River State Beach.

29. p.26 Parking

40

- See comment #10

30. p.27 Comfort Station

41 — o See comment #1

31. p.28 Employee Housing

42 — o See comment #14

32. p.38 General Plan Implementation

43 — o See comment #16

33. Mapping, see comment #17 regarding Land Use and Use Intensity Maps

34. p.42 EIR

44 — Air Quality, see comment #18

35. p.43 Vegetation and Wildlife

45 — o See comment #27

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the preliminary General Plans for Zmudowski, Moss Landing and Salinas River State Beaches. We look forward to your responses and inclusion of our comments in the final General Plans. Further, we look forward to participation in the public hearing process at Asilomar this August.

Sincerely,

Robert Slimmon, Jr.
Director of Planning

cc: Supervisor Strasser Kauffman
Supervisor Del Piero
Edward Y. Brown, Coastal Commission

June 19, 1987

Mr. James Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: Monterey State Beach Preliminary General Plan

Dear Mr. Doyle:

On behalf of the City of Monterey, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the Preliminary General Plan for Monterey State Beach.

The Preliminary General Plan has been reviewed by the Monterey Parks and Recreation Commission at their meeting of June 2, 1987, and by the Monterey City Council at their meeting of June 16, 1987. Each found the document consistent with existing City policy and policy documents, and endorsed its passage by the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Our staff has compiled the following technical comments related to the document:

46 1. Page 20. The allowable use intensity maps were not included in the City's copies of the Preliminary General Plan.

47 2. Page 21. In the second paragraph under Existing Conditions, it is suggested that the wording be changed to read, "Obstruction of views to the Bay from Del Monte Avenue affect the unit's current recreational values."

3. Page 22. The first sentence under Access should read, "There is no legal vehicle access to this unit." In the next sentence the word "primarily" should be inserted before "within the old railroad right-of-way."

7-3887

47 cont.

The illegal accesses discussed in the second paragraph will be remedied with the installation of additional barriers, which is scheduled for July, 1987.

4. Page 23. It is suggested that the sentence, "The City of Monterey perceives the open space as a more urban park space" be deleted. Although there has been some preliminary discussion regarding the future use and design of this open space area, no decisions or policy direction have been set.

48

5. Page 25. A water line and a cable TV line run concurrently with the sewage collection line discussed in the document. It is the water line and not the sewage line that is visible. It should be noted that the City is budgeting funds to relocate these lines because of the potential for future loss. The relocation of these lines will lessen the City's need for Sand Dunes Drive for utility access.

49

6. Page 26. With the relocation of the sewer line, alternate service for the proposed comfort station may be required.

50

7. Pages 25 and 26. The improvements discussed for the Sand Dunes Drive area are consistent with the Del Monte Beach LUP, but the LUP does not mention the possibility of overnight camping. We feel that en-route camping would be consistent with the Coastal Act, and appropriate for this location if security concerns can be addressed.

51

8. Page 27. It may be desirable to discuss a potential relationship between the underwater recreation area suggested in the Plan, and a similar area proposed for the Cannery Row region.

52

9. Page 39. Any effort to preserve the habitat for the Smith's Blue Butterfly should be coordinated with other efforts that have occurred, are ongoing, or may be implemented in surrounding areas.

53

10. Page 40. The Public Services section should mention the City's sewer and water lines running through the property, and their potential for damage or loss from ocean forces.

53 cont.

11. Fold-out map. On sheet 1 of the Land Use and Facilities map, the Recreation Trail is shown incorrectly as passing through the Southern Pacific property adjacent to the City beach. The Trail presently follows an interim alignment adjacent to Del Monte Avenue. It also may be appropriate to show the future improvements proposed for the City beach in the Harbor LUP, such as the beach craft launch area in the area of Wharf #2.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Fred Cohn of my office at (408) 646-3760.

Sincerely,

Lee Riordan
City Manager (Interim)

dt

c Community Development Director
Parks and Recreation Director
Senior Administrative Analyst
City Clerk
Ms. Mary Gunter, District Superintendent,
Monterey District

211 HILLCREST AVENUE
MARINA, CALIFORNIA 93933
(408) 384-3715

July 2, 1987

Mr. James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Sections
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The City Council of the City of Marina had an opportunity to review the Marina State Beach Preliminary General Plan. One of our Councilmembers, Joan Blake, made the following comments after her careful review of it.

54 — Page 15 Zone of Prime Interest

Don't care for all the "concern" about Water District, and why the concern over Corp Yard? Gas Hazard? This isn't clear at all. Also, fail to see how the rest is of so much concern, as Parks primary job is for visitor serving reasons, and RV and Motels bring in what Parks is about.

55 — Page 28 Staying Safe

Swimming? This needs to be striken from para.

56 — Page 35 Maintenance - Para III

Dislike user fee - fines for littering should first be tried - funds should be used only for improvements.

57 — Land Use Plan

One hand says erosion, then Plan shows parking and restrooms in what could be considered near danger zone.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Plan.

Sincerely,

LARRY W. BAGLEY
City Manager

LWB/frc

RECEIVED
JUL 6 1987
RPD

7-415

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, California 94970
Telephone (415) 868-1221

June 17, 1987

James M. Doyle
Environmental Review Section
State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Mr. Doyle:

58 This letter (responding to the preliminary general plans for Zmudowski and Salinas River state beaches) addresses only protection to nesting Snowy Plovers through the proposed Natural Preserves. I think the steps taken in both plans are excellent. A particularly valuable approach has been to limit access at Zmudowski Beach to the existing entry points. Since the Natural Preserve at Salinas River State Beach requires the same kind of protection, the park system should not open access to the south end of the beach in the future (see page 27). Access at the south end will make it much more difficult to limit human disturbance to the Natural Preserve. It will also increase public access to the Salinas River Wildlife Refuge, another important plover breeding site. Access to sensitive areas should be restricted to walk-in traffic only.

Snowy Plovers breed along the entire length of Salinas State Beach. As beach use increases by the public, breeding plovers will become more and more restricted to the preserves. The total number of plovers using state beaches will decrease with the loss of nesting sites in heavily used areas, thus the preserves will become essential to protecting this species. I believe it is particularly important not to allow access to the south end of Salinas River State Beach.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Page
Director Coastal and Estuarine Program

7-3891

Response to Comments

1. It does not appear that any of our actions will require a permit from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. We wish to continue to coordinate with the Corps on erosion monitoring.

2. Existing State and Federal laws and DPR policies provide for protection of rare and endangered fauna. One of our objectives for all of these units is to protect and restore native dune ecosystems. Meeting this objective should benefit the native flora and fauna including rare, threatened, and endangered species. Specific management actions to benefit the black legless lizard and the Smith's blue butterfly will be undertaken as specific needs and funding are identified. DPR funded a study of the Smith's blue butterfly at Marina SB in 1986. A copy of the report was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Office in Sacramento.

3. The Department believes that if carefully designed and regulated the land use and facility proposals can be implemented without conflicting with resource management policies. If conflicts develop, the resource management policies will take precedent over land use and facilities proposals.

4. Hang gliding within the proposed Natural Preserve will be severely limited to a relatively few experienced pilots operating from a small launch area. No significant impact is predicted.

5. The relatively intense visitor use of the northern area at Marina State Beach will be limited to the ocean beach and the immediate vicinity of the parking area. Access to the dunes in this area is currently limited to a designated boardwalk trail. The surrounding dune area is fenced and officially closed to all public use. These restrictions will continue as long as needed to protect the listed species which occur in this area. We do not believe that incidental take of Smith's blue butterfly is likely through the implementation of these plans. We will keep the USFWS and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) informed about DPR activities which may affect sensitive species in this and the other units.

6. Please refer to response #4.

7. The land use and facilities map is schematically drawn. Sections of significant back dune habitat near Lake Court could be included in the Natural Preserve. Also see response #3.

8. We agree that boardwalks greatly facilitate access and discourage random walking over the dunes. The Department is studying the construction and maintenance costs of the boardwalks and their effectiveness. The trail connecting the two terminuses of the boardwalk would be posted and at some time in the future a boardwalk may be constructed. All use would be restricted to boardwalks and designated trails in the preserve.

9. Pages 18 and 19 in the Marina State Beach General Plan discuss the Department's bluff setback policy. We haven't identified a target erosion timespan, but we believe that permanent facilities setback in the zone of demonstration would not be threatened for many years. The many factors that involve shoreline bluff erosion make a target date prediction extremely difficult.

10. The allowable use intensity map for Monterey State Beach was inadvertently omitted. The federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly and other endangered and threatened species will be protected here as well as in other State Beaches. (See responses #2 and 3.)

11. We agree that en route camping would provide a critical public need in the Sand Dunes Drive area of Monterey State Beach. The Department has a commitment to protect the dunes habitat. State Park Rangers will enforce rules and regulations concerning restrictive use in certain designated areas. (Also see response #3.)

12. The status of parcels that may be acquired cannot be discussed in this General Plan because of the sensitive nature of the proposals.

13. This comment is noted. The Department supports possible solutions to the traffic problems.

14. We agree. Restrooms will be sewered whenever sewer lines are available now or in the future. Septic tanks and leach lines will be used if conditions permit this. A pumpout system will be used otherwise. We will work at having water and sewer lines to as many restrooms as possible in the future.

15. The general plans for these State Beaches were coordinated with local, State and Federal agencies. We believe the plans are consistent with the Local Coastal Plan (LCP), even though the text may not include a large volume of background material on that subject.

16. See response #14.

17. Equestrian use has been authorized at Zmudowski, Moss Landing, and Salinas River State Beaches. The County LCP should be amended.

18. Comment noted and we will seek approval.

19. Comment noted.

20. See response #18.

21. Corrections, deletions and additions noted.

22. The Department has a lease from the State Lands Commission for a 20-acre parcel at the mouth of the Pajaro River. This parcel is operated as part of Zmudowski State Beach. The lease enables the Department to protect resources, enforce rules and regulations and allow public use.

23. See resonse #21.

24. This policy was included because shoreline protective devices have been or may be suggested. Residents of the development to the north of Zmudowski have built a seawall on their property. We feel that this policy needs to be included and should not be deleted from any of the General Plans.

25. See response #18.

26. See response #14.

27. See response #18.

28. Please see pages 22 and 23 in the Zmudowski S.B. General Plan These proposals are conditional to additional land and other requirements.

29. When the Department proceeds with planning for implementation, we will submit plans and maps for approval. (See response #18.)

30. See response #19.

31. See response #21.

32. See response #24.

33. See response #21.

34. See response #29.

35. See response #21.

36. See response #19.

37. See response #19.

38. See response #24.

39. See response #19.

40. See response #18.

41. See response #14.

42. See response #18.

43. See response #29.

44. See response #19.

45. See response #24.

46. See responses #10 and 21.

47. See response #21.

48. See responses #21 and 19.

49. See responses #19 and 14.

50. See response #11.

51. See response #21.

52. See response #10.

53. See response #21.

54. We disagree. The Department is very concerned about surrounding properties and local activities that could affect State Park System units. For example, traffic to the corporation yard and water district affect traffic and congestion on Reservation Road and access to Marina State Beach. Likewise, the mining of sand affects the sand replenishment to State Beaches. The sewer operation could affect visitor health. Many more examples could be given.

55. We disagree. Swimming, while not a major activity, is a valid recreation activity.

56. See response #19.

57. See response #9. The drawings are schematic and the permanent facilities appear closer to the edge of the bluff than in fact they will be.

58. We agree that the nesting areas for the snowy plover need as much protection as possible. The proposed future access point at the south end of Salinas River State Beach is still a preliminary consideration. This would be an interpretive area for visitors and an observation point. Access would be prohibited during sensitive periods.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Griggs, Gary and Savoy, Lauret, ed., Living with the California Coast, Duke University Press, Durham, North Carolina, 1985.

Monterey County, California, North County Land Use Plan, Local Coastal Program, June 1982.

Monterey County Planning Department, North County Trails Plan, Draft, October 1986.

Scheuring, Ann Foley (ed.), A Guidebook to California Agriculture, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1983.

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Geomorphology Framework Report, Monterey Bay, Coast of California Storm and Tidal Wave Study, Los Angeles District, Planning Division, Coastal Resources Branch, Los Angeles, Dec. 1985.

D-2250R

POTRERO ROAD

MOLERA ROAD

OLD

SALINAS I

II

RIVER

I

STATE

II

BEACH

18

SALINAS

RIVER

I

II

I

II

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH
ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY

USE INTENSITY CATEGORY	SITE CHARACTERISTICS	APPROPRIATE FACILITIES
I – LOW	This zone contains the best example of low coastal dune vegetation along Monterey Bay Important wetland wildlife habitat areas	Trails in the less sensitive areas. Parking and other support facilities in areas already impacted by human use
II – MODERATE	Sandy Beach	Fire rings and portable facilities to be removed each winter

This map is based on natural, cultural, and scenic constraints and sensitivities. Other factors such as land use, socioeconomic, and design factors may indicate that a higher or lower use intensity is desirable in particular areas. If appropriate mitigations are feasible and can be incorporated in the planning process, higher use intensities may be acceptable

This map is useful only for general planning purposes. Small sensitive resource areas and small areas without constraints are not mapped. Once site specific proposals for land use or facilities have been developed, the proposed location should be checked for resource sensitivity on the various resource maps on file in the Department's Resource Protection Division office. Site specific field investigations may also be necessary

STATE PARK BOUNDARY

N

0 500 1000 1500

SCALE IN FEET

DESIGNED

DRAWN

CHECKED

REVISIONS

DATE

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
APPROVED STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION DATE 8-14-87

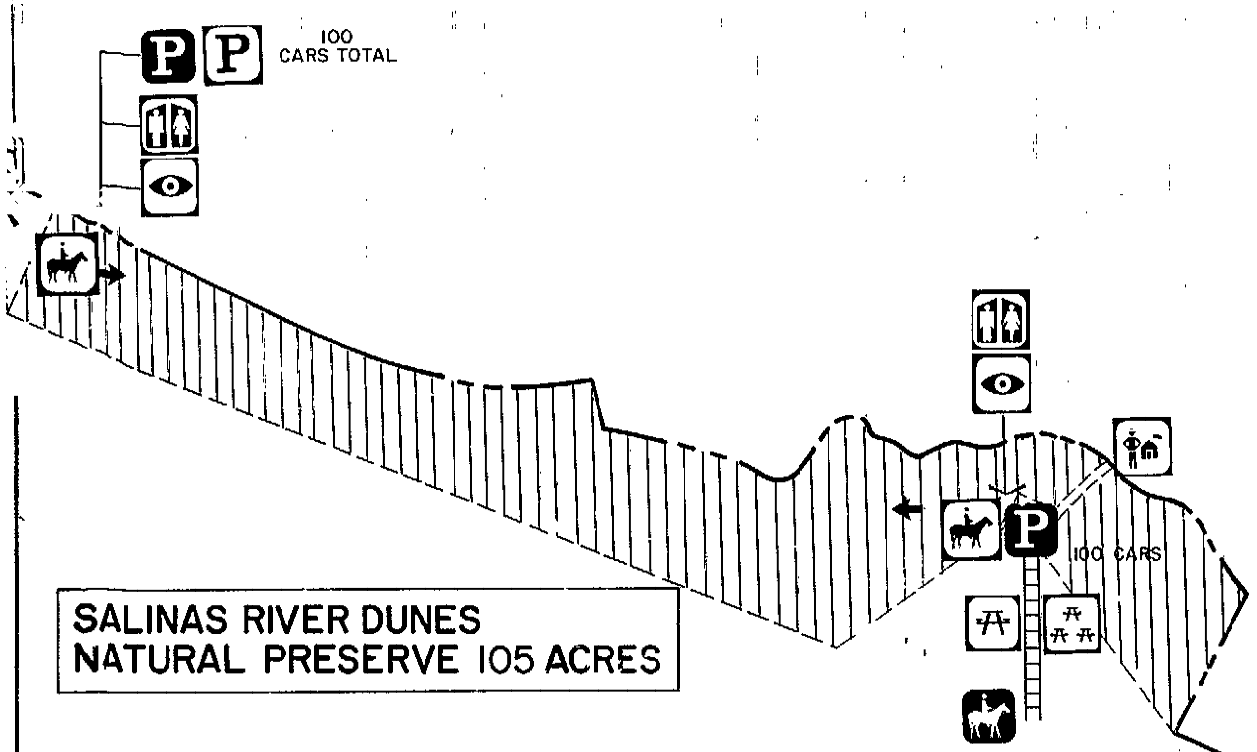
SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY MAP

RESOURCE ELEMENT

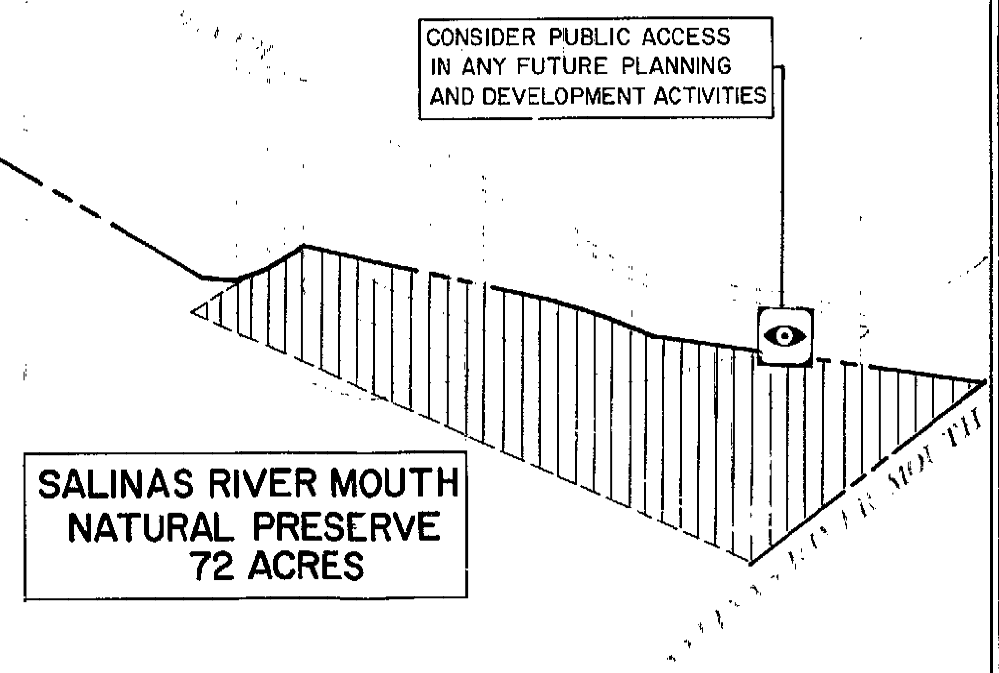
DRAWING No.
21395

SHEET No.
— OF —



SALINAS RIVER DUNES
NATURAL PRESERVE 105 ACRES

CONSIDER PUBLIC ACCESS
IN ANY FUTURE PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



SALINAS RIVER MOUTH
NATURAL PRESERVE
72 ACRES

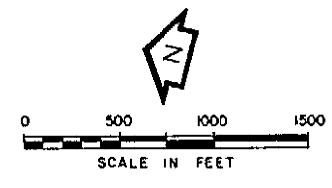
LEGEND

EXISTING & PROPOSED ADDITIONS

- STATE PARK BOUNDARY
- BOARDWALK

EXISTING / PROPOSED

- FAMILY PICNIC AREA — 10 SITES
- GROUP PICNIC AREA — TABLES & FIRE PIT (25 PERSONS)
- PARKING — PAVED & UNPAVED VEHICLE PARKING
- COMFORT STATION — RESTROOM FACILITIES, UTILITIES
- CONTACT STATION — ENTRY KIOSK
- EQUESTRIAN TRAIL — DESIGNATED ROUTE
- INTERPRETIVE EXHIBIT — DISPLAY PANELS
- EMPLOYEE HOUSING
- NATURAL PRESERVE



DESIGNED D. KECK
DRAWN JKD MAY 87
CHECKED

DATE

REVISIONS
REVISED PER SPBR COMMISSION 8/14/87
APPROVED ADDENDUM DWG. NO. 23472

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APPROVED _____ DATE 8-14-87

SALINAS RIVER STATE BEACH

LAND USE AND FACILITIES

GENERAL PLAN

DRAWING NO.
22855

SHEET NO
— OF —

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